

Foundation urges art theft probe

LONDON (R) — The Islamic Arts Foundation called Sunday for an international inquiry into the theft of \$4 million worth of Muslim art objects from a Jerusalem museum on Friday. The London-based foundation, set up in 1981 to promote Islamic arts, also appealed to dealers and auction houses throughout the world to help recover ancient watches and clocks, rare books and paintings stolen from the Islamic Museum. Foundation Chairman Muazzam Ali sent cables to the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Jeddah and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris calling for an inquiry under international auspices. There had been a "systematic campaign to destroy Islamic heritage and holy places since the Israeli usurpation and occupation of Palestine," he said.

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U.N. chief arrives in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (A.P.) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Sweden Sunday on his swing through Scandinavia. Foreign Minister Lenaar Bodstrom and other officials greeted the secretary general in Stockholm's harbour where he arrived in the morning by ferry from Finland. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is to meet with Prime Minister Olof Palme, lunch with King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia and address the Swedish parliament during his three-day official visit. Sweden is the fourth leg of his Nordic trip which has taken him to Iceland, Denmark and Finland in the past ten days. On Tuesday, Mr. Perez de Cuellar leaves by plane for Oslo, Norway.

Bonn defends nuclear first-strike option

BONN (R) — West Germany's new armed forces chief said Sunday NATO would not necessarily spark an all-out nuclear war if it fired one nuclear weapon to halt a conventional attack by Warsaw Pact forces. Gen. Wolfgang Albenburg, who took office this month, said, "A nuclear first strike can hit a target somewhere as a political signal and need not necessarily mean the outbreak of a nuclear war in the Federal Republic (West Germany)." But, he told West German radio, a first strike could only be used in response to a Warsaw Pact assault.

Saudi Arabia to double wheat output

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia expects to almost double its wheat production this year as part of efforts to make the kingdom self-sufficient in food, Commerce Minister Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al Salim was quoted Sunday as saying. Production was expected to reach 500,000 to 600,000 tonnes this year, the Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying in a speech marking the opening of a grain complex at Buraydah, northwest of Riyadh. King Fahd said last week wheat output was more than 300,000 tonnes last year.

Soviet TV attacks U.S. MX plan

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet television correspondent Alexander Druzhinin Sunday attacked a U.S. plan to deploy 100 MX nuclear missiles in existing missile silos, saying it would threaten peace and spur the arms race. "This recommendation is a step towards a decision which will be a new stage in the arms race and will create an additional threat of military conflict breaking out," he said.

Egypt gets 2 new power stations

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inaugurated two power stations Sunday, one built by French and Arab economic assistance and the other with United States and British soft loans. The first, a 600 megawatt station in Abu Kir Bay at Alexandria, was built by the French consortium Alstom Atlantique. The total cost of about \$368 million was shared with Egypt by Abu Dhabi and Kuwait Arab development funds, French banks and the French government.

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Arafat: PLO and Jordan determined to seek formula

RABAT (Agencies) — Palestine leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying he and King Hussein were determined to pursue their dialogue on finding a formula for Middle East peace.

In a statement on arrival in the central Moroccan city of Fez Saturday night, reported by the Moroccan news agency MAP Sunday, Mr. Arafat said "certain minor differences" had emerged in the talks with Jordan which were suspended a week ago after six months of contacts.

"The Palestinians, and the Jordanians led by King Hussein, are determined to pursue their dialogue for the good of the Arab World and the Palestinian cause," he said.

Accompanied by two of his top aides, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Fatah Central Committee, Mr. Arafat was due to confer with King Hassan of Morocco in Fez later Sunday. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader arrived from talks with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Mr. Arafat said he would discuss with King Hassan the question of resuming talks with Jordan and the agenda of a special Arab summit which King Hassan hopes to hold next month in Fez.

Mr. Arafat's tour of North Africa comes before a crucial meeting of the Palestinian leadership due to be held soon in Tunisia in an effort to reach a consensus on resuming talks with Jordan.

The extraordinary Arab summit, called by King Hassan, had been set for this weekend, but was rescheduled for early May by what Morocco's official news agency said was "the latest political developments."

It was also, the agency said, "to

enable the intensification of inter-Arab consultations with a view to ensuring the maximum chance of success for the extraordinary summit."

Since early last week, Mr. Arafat has visited Stockholm, Sweden, where he met with Prime Minister Olof Palme, and Sofia, Bulgaria, for talks with President Todor Zhivkov. He returned to the PLO headquarters in Tunis Saturday where he met with President Bourguiba, then left for Algeria and Morocco.

Kissinger: U.S. plan alive

Meanwhile, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in Rome Sunday he did not believe President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative was dead. "What we are seeing at the moment is a complicated negotiating procedure," he told a news conference while attending informal three-day talks here on world issues between leading political figures, industrialists and intellectuals.

Mr. Kissinger, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his own peace-making efforts in the Middle East, said he was still hopeful Jordan and the PLO would reconsider their position on the Reagan plan.

Mr. Kissinger rated chances of a new Middle East war as "very low in the immediate future." No Arab country was strong enough to attack Israel and Israel would not risk U.S. disapproval by launching an attack, he said.

Habib, Israel study 'long inventory of differences'

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. envoy Philip Habib met the head of Israel's delegation at the talks with Lebanon Sunday to discuss "a long inventory of differences" blocking agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, a Foreign Ministry official said.

David Kimche, general director of Israel's Foreign Ministry, met Mr. Habib for an hour to discuss the differences, some over the wording of an agreement and others substantive issues, the official said.

The future of renegade Lebanese army Maj. Saad Haddad, whom Israel sees as the cornerstone of an agreement on

"security" in South Lebanon but whom Lebanon opposes as a deserter, was not mentioned, he said. Newspaper reports said Mr. Habib would now fly to Beirut to continue his efforts to settle differences between Israel and Lebanon.

Israel wants Maj. Haddad, who has for years received Israeli backing to fight Palestinian commando infiltration in South Lebanon, to command forces there to prevent the commandos' return.

Lebanon, which considers him a traitor who deserted the Lebanese army to form his own militia in 1976, has refused.

Syria's plans in Lebanon worries Beirut government

By Patrick Worsnip

BEIRUT — Uncertainty over Syria's plans for its troops in Lebanon has become a major worry for Lebanese leaders as key political decisions loom on the terms for a pullout of Israeli invasion forces.

Conflicting signals have been emerging recently from Damascus on the conditions for the withdrawal of Syria's estimated 40,000 men in Lebanon. Syrian leaders apparently are considering the possibility of a Lebanese-Israeli agreement being reached fairly soon.

Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. negotiators have been discussing for 16 weeks a formula for the withdrawal of Israeli troops who invaded Lebanon last summer with the declared aim of smashing Palestinian commando bases there.

A senior Lebanese official said last week the sides agreed in principle on joint teams to supervise

border "security" arrangements aimed at preventing the commandos' return but differed on their makeup and powers.

Officials in Beirut say the military men from the three delegations have now gone about as far as they can on drafting the security arrangements and that further progress requires political decisions.

One official, explaining the Lebanese quandary, said: "In the back of our minds, we always have the feeling that if we say this, what will be the reaction of the Syrians, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Saudis? What will be the internal effect?"

"If we only had one occupying power, we could have sorted it out in a week."

With these worries in mind, Lebanon is resisting Israeli demands for intervention powers for the joint teams, a fixed presence of



Prime Minister Mudar Badran (right) and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid (left) Sunday confer with the visiting Lebanese defence minister, Issam Khouri (center) (Petra photo)

Badran receives Lebanese delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran conferred in his office Sunday with a visiting Lebanese military delegation headed by Defence Minister Issam Khouri. The meeting was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid, Lebanon's Ambassador to Jordan Marcel Namour and his counterpart in Beirut, Mu'tasem Bilbeisi.

Earlier, the Lebanese delegation met with Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid at the Army Headquarters in Amman.

The delegation, which arrived in Amman Sunday morning for a visit expected to last several days, will be meeting with other Jordanian officials and touring army positions and institutions in the country.

The delegation was met upon

arrival by Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid, Army Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, senior army officers, and the Lebanese ambassador.

The delegation Sunday afternoon visited the Martyrs' Monument in Amman, toured its different sections and watched a documentary on the Great Arab Revolt and the development of Jordan's Armed Forces.

Shawwa urges PLO to join talks on U.S. plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayor of the Israeli-occupied town of Gaza has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to join negotiations for Middle East peace based on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposals announced last September.

In an interview with the Lebanese English-language Monday Morning magazine published Sunday, Mayor Rashad Al Shawwa said such a step "is a hope and is looked forward to by the majority of the Palestinians."

Mr. Shawwa expressed confidence in His Majesty King Hussein and said that considering the large number of Palestinians living in Jordan, Palestinian rights are Jordan's concern too.

King Hussein feels the urgency to achieve a settlement to the Palestine problem as the Palestinians themselves do, the Gaza mayor added.

Mr. Shawwa said that Palestinians living under Israeli occu-

pation felt an overwhelming bitterness and despair at the freezing last Sunday of talks between Jordan and the PLO on joint political moves towards Middle East peace negotiations. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should have continued his talks with King Hussein in light of the fact that the main concern is the liberation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Commando Israeli occupation, and then setting up a confederation with Jordan, Mr. Shawwa concluded.

Gandhi allays Islamic concern over Assam

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has sent personal letters to heads of state and prime ministers of 31 Islamic countries refuting reports that large numbers of Muslims were killed in February's election violence in the northeast state of Assam, officials said Sunday.

The letters went out as the violence continued, with one person reported killed and six injured Saturday in the state's Goalpara district, which was worst hit in February. Other areas remained peaceful, Press Trust of India said.

In her letters, Mrs. Gandhi said she was writing because "interested groups hostile to India were deliberately misrepresenting the deplorable incidents that took

place in Assam during the recent elections."

Mrs. Gandhi said India was safe for minorities, with some 80 million Muslims and 15 million Christians, among others, in India's 700 million population peacefully pursuing their religious faiths.

She said events in Assam had caused her and the government "deep anxiety."

Reagan assures Syria of Golan pullout

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has assured Syrian President Hafez Al Assad he wants Middle East peace negotiations which will secure an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied by Israel in 1967, the official Syrian news agency SANA reported Sunday.

Mr. Reagan's pledge came in a congratulatory cable on the eve of the 36th anniversary of the evacuation of French forces from Syria.

In his cable Mr. Reagan said the United States was seeking expanded peace negotiations on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and added that the U.S. considered the document included the Golan Heights.

Israel annexed the heights in December 1981 and President Reagan's current Middle East peace proposals make no specific mention of them.

In the cable, Mr. Reagan said he was looking forward to more

U.S.-Syrian contacts aimed at what he described as the two countries' common goal of a negotiated peace settlement.

The tone of the cable contrasted sharply with critical statements from U.S. officials earlier this year after news of the installation of new Soviet-made air defence missiles in Syria.

Resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 war, has been the basis for most Middle East peace efforts since then.

Turkish, Greek ministers to meet

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish and Greek foreign ministers will meet in Strasbourg on April 27 to discuss ways of easing tension between the two countries, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday. He confirmed Greek reports that Turkey's Ilter Turkmen and Greece's Ioannis Charalambopoulos would meet during ministerial committee meetings of the Council of Europe later this month. Relations between Turkey and Greece, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), have long been strained by disputes mainly over Cyprus and rights in the Aegean area. On Saturday, Turkmen sent a warmly-worded message of thanks to Mr. Charalambopoulos for securing the release of 114 passengers and crew of a Turkish airliner hijacked to Athens last Friday.

French team leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French delegation, headed by Posts and Telecommunications Minister Louis Mexandeau, left Amman for Paris Sunday at the end of a three-day official visit, during which it attended the formal inauguration of the new international direct dialling telephone exchange in Amman.

Mr. Mexandeau also held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben.

Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director-General, Mohammad Shahid Ismail said that working meetings with the

French delegation covered various aspects of French financing to Jordanian telecommunications projects.

Mr. Ismail said that a new financing agreement for the second phase of the international exchange project inaugurated Saturday, will cover more than half the existing agreement which totals 540 million French francs.

A joint team representing the TCC and a French consultancy firm has been formed to outline intensive training courses in telecommunications to be offered to Jordanian technicians.

The French delegation was seen off at Amman Airport by Mr. Zaben, Mr. Ismail and high-ranking officials.

Jordan urges Iran to seek to end war

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday called on Iran to stop the Gulf war to safeguard the interests of the Iranian people and also urged an Islamic conference being held here to issue recommendations and resolutions that would put an end to the 31-month-old conflict.

Jordan's appeal was conveyed to the conference by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif, who also praised the "heroic struggle of the Iraqi people in defence of its security and boundaries in the face of aggression."

"Iran ought to seize the opportunity of this conference and seek a peaceful settlement to the Gulf war," Mr. Sharif said.

Mr. Sharif referred to the "dangers threatening Islamic nations and their holy shrines and cultures" and called on all Islamic

nations to stand together and confront these dangers.

"The Gulf war pitting the two neighbouring Islamic nations has been planned by imperialist powers to divert the Arab and Islamic nations from their main duty of liberating the Holy Land from the Zionist occupation, and therefore this war must stop so that all efforts can be concerted and all resources mobilised for the liberation of Palestine and the Holy City of Jerusalem," the minister said.

Mr. Sharif, who conveyed to the conference the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, said that at present "Iraq and the Arab Nation have no alternative but to defend their territory and repel aggression."

Iraq has repeatedly said that it wants peace "because it realises the grave dangers threatening the Islamic nations," he said.

Iraq sinks 4 Iranian vessels near Gulf port

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi navy sank four enemy ships in a five-hour battle near the Iranian Gulf port of Bandar Khomeini Sunday, an Iraqi high command communique said.

Three other ships escaped the Iraqi assault, it added.

The communique did not identify the ships and gave no further details of the action, which took place on the seventh day of a new Iranian offensive in the 31-month-old Gulf war.

Meanwhile, Baghdad newspapers Sunday quoted the commander of Iraq's Fourth Army Corps, Maj.-Gen. Hsiam Sabah Al Fakhr, as saying his troops had killed 30,000 Iranians in battles over the past four days.

A military communique Saturday night said Iraqi troops had killed more than 4,650 Iranians in fighting on a 10-kilometre long battlefield in Misan Province.

scene of intensive conflict since last Sunday.

The communique said the battles occurred in "recent days" but did not specify when.

Sunday's communique said all Iraqi naval units involved in the sea battle returned safely to base. It also said Iraqi planes Sunday shot down an Iranian twin rotor Chinook helicopter near Al Bakr, at the northeast of the Gulf.

In other action, Iranian artillery shelled the southern Iraqi port of Basrah and the border township of Mandali, killing a woman, the communique added.

Gen. Fakhr was quoted as saying Iran was using a new tactic in its latest offensive by merging regular and volunteer troops in battle.

He also said Iran was using children over 10 years of age who were "waged like herds of sheep towards the Iraqi defenders without any target or direction."

Gulf oil slick reported still mainly in Iranian waters

BAHRAIN (R) — Environmental officials said Sunday that much of the steadily growing oil slick in the Gulf was still in Iranian waters although the total area of the strategic waterway now affected was at least 8,000 square miles.

The information was based on recent reports from helicopters and space satellites monitoring the movements of the slick which has been spreading out of control in the absence of action to cap broken Iranian wells in the Iran-Iraq war zone.

A Reuters correspondent who

Sunday joined a helicopter patrol over the Gulf saw a thin patch of oil about 14 miles northwest of Bahrain and seven miles off the Saudi Arabian port of Al Khobar.

Oil experts said the patches were not significant enough to cause concern for the continued operation of vital water desalination installations and fishing boats.

At least 2,000 barrels a day of thick oil—with some unofficial estimates running as high as 8,000—have been pouring unchecked from the Iranian wells for at least six weeks.

Top-level U.S. team to tackle C.American issues in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — A top-level U.S. delegation arrives here Sunday for two-day discussions aimed at narrowing differences between the two countries over Central American policies and inter-American trade.

The talks between Secretary of

State George Shultz, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and their Mexican counterparts are expected to focus on current guerrilla wars in Central America and the possibility of trade concessions to Mexico. Western diplomats said.

هكذا من الأصل

FEATURES

Buckingham Palace displeased over Royal Service

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — Royalty expects its employees to respect its privacy even after bowing out of service, as the former gentleman's to Britain's Prince Charles is finding out.

To show his pleasure at having served the prince for 12 years, the courtly, courteous former valet, Stephen Barry, has written a book called *Royal Service*, a 246-page long, Valentine Day's card to the new King of England.

But to show his displeasure, Buckingham Palace has effectively had the book banned

from being printed in Britain. Which is not to say that the valet-turned-author is wringing his hands in dismay at the manner in which he is being treated by his former employers now that he is out of the palace.

Barry, 34, is having a grand old time, staying in the best American hotels because not only is his book being published here, it is also zooming up the best-seller's lists. "I am not concerned, not concerned in the least. Obviously, the palace is not pleased by the precedent my book is setting, so they are being very cautious," Barry said the other day.

The precedent Barry was referring to is simple: One may loyally serve the British royal family but one may not loyally write about them after service has finished.

Earlier this year the royal family threatened Britain's *The Sun* newspaper with court action after it published stories from another former employee about life in Buckingham Palace.

When employees are accepted for work at the palace, they sign an oath not to write about their work. But when Barry did so he was only 17 and therefore legally under age. And when he was transferred to the prince's staff from the Queen's it was done with a hand-

shake.

Both factors turned out to be a legal loophole that allowed Barry to write, but not necessarily to publish in Britain.

According to his agent, Lucianne Goldberg, "Sidgwick and Jackson were all set to publish it when they were called to the palace and told by the prince's private secretary that they would be enjoined in court if they dared."

Goldberg added, "I got sent a flurry of warning letters so I just wrote back saying '1776,' meaning we fought a war with the British and won. It's the hottest gift item in Britain at the moment and we are considering publishing it in Ireland and importing it to London."

Barry says that he gave the palace a draft of the book to examine and received it back with the comment "harmless" from the prince's private secretary.

He adds that he took this "harmless" as a sign to publish and be damned.

Anyway, he said, as far as he can tell the royals like the book. Princess Diana, whom he ran into recently, asked him how the book was doing while Prince Charles, whom he also saw recently, asked him what he was going to do with all the money.

"I told him I might open a small hotel," Barry said.

This apparently amused the prince who was similarly entertained at learning the name of the American magazine that serialized the book. Barry said the prince exclaimed, "Good Housekeeping? Oh dear."

The former valet's book is perfect "Good Housekeeping" fare: Good-natured, always respectful, fairly discreet and in the words of the prince's private secretary, harmless.

It reveals that the prince never says anything harsher than "bloody," never buys his own clothes, dislikes smoking and refused to speak to Idi Amin when the Ugandan dictator appeared at the state funeral of Kenyan leader Jomo Kenyatta.

It also reveals that Prince Charles hates chocolate mousse, especially with nuts, but will pretend to be delighted when served it at dinners he must attend.

The book also said the prince was furious when the English Sunday Mirror newspaper claimed that Princess Diana has spent a night on the royal train with Prince Charles before their wedding because the event never occurred.

Barry said that many people now confront him with the questions: "O.K., where's the dirt? Where's the sex?" "I ask them how much sex and dirt is in their lives. The prince, you know, leads a very disciplined life."

Barry added that the prince is also one of the most tolerant of men, although he did something lose his temper with his valet on grueling royal tours.

He added the prince explained these outbursts by saying, "Don't worry, I have to take it out on someone."

That comment is not in the book.

Spain's killer oil mystery still unsolved

By Mark Baillie
Reuter

MADRID — Two years after striking down 20,000 Spaniards and killing more than 300, a mystery disease caused by tainted cooking oil still baffles international experts who warn it could break out again.

"We are dealing entirely with the unknown," Dr. Roy Goulding, said at the end of a four-day international meeting which tried to bring together all available data.

"Denatured" rape-seed oil, dyed and altered for industrial use, was refined and mixed with animal fats and sold illegally as cheap cooking oil by itinerant vendors, mainly in the Madrid areas in the spring of 1981.

Its effects ranged from deformation of limbs and lung failure to self-destruction of the body's immune system — a unique and mysterious set of symptoms named toxic oil syndrome. "So long as the precise cause remains undiscovered, no assurance can be given that this type of disease will not occur again, perhaps in some other country," the meeting concluded.

First diagnosed as a new form of pneumonia, the disease's effects multiplied rapidly and caused a wave of near-hysteria during the two-month period it took the authorities to identify the oil as the cause. Cooking oil of all kinds then fell under suspicion in a country whose diet relies heavily on it.

Up to 2,000 people have been seriously disabled and the official figure of 338 deaths is disputed by Victims' Associations who put the total at more than 400.

Theories abound but the meeting two weeks ago, sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the Spanish team monitoring toxic oil developments, was unable to identify what caused the virulent combination of illnesses.

"The combined clinical picture and the pathology findings are unique...the total perspective of chronic effects is yet to develop," the meeting's report said.

Most victims were first hit in the lungs, where tissue growths and gathering fluid blocked passages and threatened them with respiratory collapse. Muscle pains, fever, stiff joints and skin rashes quickly followed.

As the disease progressed, muscles withered, the skin hardened and went dark. Limbs were deformed, eyes were affected and circulation troubles appeared, leading some doctors to believe it had speeded up the ageing process.

Although one treatment saved the lives of some victims of lung failure, "no overall benefit has been established from any other drug treatment," the report said.

In some cases the body's immune system started attacking itself and one theory says the toxic oil released free radicals in the body — highly reactive compounds which attacked cell membranes.

According to the theory, the cells reacted by building scar tissue which in the worst cases blocked major organs.

Other studies say the free radicals theory is not proven. And even if it were, it would not explain what element in the toxic oil caused the outbreak of disease.

This question led the meeting to warn governments that the disease could reappear elsewhere. "For rape-seed oil and similar edible oils are widely utilized as sources of diet throughout the world and undergo various chemical and physical treatments that may modify their constitution."

The report concluded that the only available defence against further outbreaks was strict legislation on food standards, backed up by a nation-wide network of inspectors.

The lack of such laws prevented rapid action when the toxic oil hit Spain and faster reaction by the health authorities could have saved lives, sources at the meeting said.

Cooking oil were introduced by the new Socialist government in January. Health Minister Ernest Utrilla told the meeting "we need a bigger and better trained team of inspectors but we have made progress."

Poor coordination when the toxic oil syndrome first struck hampered the collection and study of data and even made it difficult to obtain samples of the oil, the report said.

Technical details of the "denatured" oil have just been released and the investigators hope this will provide them with enough recreated toxic oil for thorough study.

After nearly two years of research, data presented to the meeting left the experts unable "to point to any particular batches of that oil being responsible and less still to any distinct component of the oil."

Don't eliminate fitting-room mirrors

By Erma Bombeck

The quality of my life has improved enormously since I've been shopping for clothes by mail.

It's hard to believe that just a little thing like eliminating fitting-room mirrors can make you a different person. You show me a woman who tries on a bathing suit wearing nylons up to her knees, and I'll show you a woman who will never be the same again.

I've never been good at imagining what a dress on the hanger will look like wrapped around my body. This way, all I have to do is thumb through mountains of catalogues and live out my fantasies.

I can be the nymph on page 73 who is wearing a dress with a drop-waist of bold black polka dots, with a seven-foot lemon yellow sash wound around her hips.

Or the dramatic little beauty on,

the cover with the pouty lips who has layered a blouse and sweater and can still get her arms through the jacket.

Or the sultry blonde wearing a satin "teddy" body suit that if I ever got into would have to be removed... surgically.

I buy anything this one catalogue model wears. The moment I looked at her, I realised how much alike we were. We have the same dramatic flair, the same adventurous style, the same good taste.

Oh, there are little differences. She is 6-2, has hair down to her waist that she draws back from her face into a bun, weighs 97 pounds, is black and was six months old the year I started on estrogen, but we can wear the same clothes.

Last month, she modelled a clinging silk dress of blues and greens that exposed her knee to the hip and a beach hat with a three-

foot brim. (My nearest beach is an hour and a half -- by jet).

I had to return the outfit. The colour was wrong for me.

The problem with public fitting rooms is that the try-on has no control over them. At home, it's the best of all worlds. The mirror is attached to my bathroom door. There are 14 inches to stand between the mirror and the toilet bowl. I am far-frightened, giving me blurred vision when I look into it. If for any reason the dress seems tight, I pull out my scale. By propping it up against the toilet bowl brush holder, it will register three pounds less. If I need more reassurance, I put it on the carpet in front of the lavatory which subtracts another five pounds.

If it still fits snug, I don't like the colour. It's that simple.

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مكتبة الزهر

HOME NEWS

Medical conference slated for May 10

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Third Jordanian Medical Conference will open in Amman on May 10 under royal patronage, according to the conference's Secretary-General Dr. Mahmoud Al Huneidi.

He told the Jordan Times that at least 16 world renowned medical specialists, in addition to 41 Jordanian specialists and a representative from the World Health Organisation (WHO) will take

part in the three-day conference which will be open at the Palace of Culture.

The participants will hear the presentation of 41 working papers dealing with the treatment of a number of diseases and vaccines. Dr. Huneidi said.

These, he added, will include an examination of a virus that attacks the ductless gland, as well as blood disorders, heart disease and heart surgery in addition to the use of vaccines as preventive medicine.

Gold smugglers caught

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian customs officials Saturday seized 87 kilograms of gold smuggled into the country inside three lorries intercepted at Umm Al Hiran south of Amman.

A report in Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday said that the illicit merchandise, estimated to be worth JD 370,000, was seized while being transferred from secret compartments in the lorries to three private cars.

The vehicles have been impounded by the Amman customs office, while the gold has been transferred to the Central Bank of Jordan. It will be held there pending the payment of customs duty and fines by the owners who will then be permitted to take possession of the gold, the paper said.

Sa'egh arrives to take up AOAS appointment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly appointed Director-General of the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS), Dr. Nasser Al Sa'egh, arrived here Sunday to take up his post.

Dr. Sa'egh, a Saudi Arabian

national, was appointed to the position at a meeting by the AOAS's board in Riyadh on March 9.

Dr. Sa'egh, the first Saudi to be appointed to the post, succeeds Dr. Abdullah Al Zu'bi from Jordan.

Mufti opens book display

NORTHERN JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti will Monday in the town of Krainich in the Jordan Valley open a book exhibition as part of Jordan's celebration of National Book Week.

The exhibition, to be held in the town's community centre, has been organised in cooperation with the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA).

On display will be books and periodicals issued in Jordan over

the past three years, in addition to posters which depict the DLDNA's activities since 1977.

Meanwhile, an exhibition of Islamic books was opened at the Zarga secondary school for girls. The exhibition was opened by the Ministry of Education's Director of Education in the Amman area Mr. Farouk Badran. The exhibition will be open Wednesday to school parties from the Zarga region.

Administration seminar to begin

AQABA (Petra) — A seven-day seminar on the work of Jordan's municipalities and ways of promoting public services will be opened here Tuesday by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani.

Taking part in the seminar will be 39 mayors from governorates all over the country who will hear a lecture on "local administration" by Mr. Momani and another on "national pride" by Dr. Adnan Badran, president of the Yarmouk University. The university is organising the seminar in conjunction with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The mayors will then discuss such subjects as ways of protecting the environment, means of improving public services, local government, development plans, Jordan's national economy, municipalities' financial and administrative issues as well as municipal elections.



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Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour (second from left) Sunday meets with Turkish Minister of State for Economy and Trade Refik Sermet Pasin (far left) (Petra photo)

Turkey hopes to boost imports of Jordanian minerals, says Pasin

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turco-Jordanian economic relations and the possibility of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries were reviewed here Sunday by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour and the visiting Turkish Minister of State for Economy and Trade Refik Sermet Pasin.

During the meeting, the Turkish minister expressed readiness to increase Turkey's imports of Jordanian phosphates for this and coming years. Mr. Asfour welcomed Turkey's decision to in-

crease its economic and trade cooperation with Jordan and explored the prospect of exporting Jordanian potash and other products to Turkey. Both ministers also expressed

their satisfaction with Turkey's participation in the implementation of Jordanian development projects.

Mr. Pasin, who arrived here Saturday on a two-day visit en route to Kuwait, and Mr. Asfour then discussed cooperation between Jordan and Turkey in the technical, scientific and tourist fields.

Later the same day, Mr. Pasin left for Kuwait to open a Turkish art exhibition.

Traffic Day preparations announced

AMMAN (Petra) — A special celebration will be held at Al Hussein Youth City on Jordanian "Traffic Day" (May 4th) to honour 50 citizens for their high standard of driving.

The announcement was made here Sunday by a special committee, which is organising the day's activities, at a meeting held at the Ministry of the Interior.

The committee, chaired by the ministry's Assistant Under-Secretary Hashem Abu Abboud, said that it will also hold a seminar on good driving to mark the occasion.

On the day, teams of scouts will also present small gifts and bouquets to traffic policemen on duty, while the committee plans to issue a statistical bulletin showing the number of road accidents in Jordan over the past three years. Similar events will be held in other parts of the country, the committee said.

Kuwait welcomes traders

AMMAN (Petra) — Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Jasim Al Baho said Sunday that his country would be willing to issue visas to Jordanian traders wishing to visit Kuwait.

Speaking at a meeting with officials from the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Baho said that, due to an influx of applications for visits to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti em-

assy's consular section will require nearly one week to issue visas to Jordanian merchants wishing to go to Kuwait.

The ambassador discussed ways of promoting trade between the two countries with chamber officials, and the latter then commented that the issuing of visas is bound to facilitate the exchange of trade between the two countries.

Jordan trade team returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit to Egypt where talks centred on ways of bolstering economic and trade relations between Jordan and Egypt. During the visit the delegation initiated an agreement on

trade which will be signed officially in the near future.

The delegation, led by Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, grouped representatives from both the private and public sectors.

Youth problem centre to open

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar for children will be held at Hay Nazal Community Development Centre in Amman on April 23 to mark Jordanian Children's Day.

The three-day seminar is designed to encourage children to discuss problems experienced at home and at school with a view to solving them, the committee preparing for the seminar said here Sunday.

It said 45 schoolchildren from the Amman region will attend the seminar, along with teachers and students from the University of Jordan's department of sociology.

The committee said that it had prepared a full programme for the seminar which includes film shows and liaison with institutions specialising in child care services.

Rifa'i, Odeh exhibit work

AMMAN (Petra) — An art exhibition featuring the work of Mukarram Rifa'i and Abdul Nasser Odeh was opened at the Alia Art Gallery in Shmeisani Sunday.

On display for three days are 54 paintings, 28 of which belong to Mukarram and the rest having been

done by Abdul Nasser. Mr. Haidar Mahmoud, director-general of the Department of Culture and Arts, opened the exhibition at a ceremony attended by members of the Jordanian Fine Arts Association and an audience made up of the general public.

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New wave of terror

"NOBLE sons of Sidon and environs, we shall accomplish our slogan: no Palestinian in the land of Lebanon, whatever the obstacles in our path... help us to drive out the strangers from Lebanon and especially from your heroic city, which suffered the tyranny and sabotage of the Palestinians."

This is from a leaflet, signed by a group calling itself Revolutionaries of the Cedars, posted on the doorways of Sidon and particularly in the largely Christian villages in the hills just above the city. It is the trademark of the latest form of persecution which has befallen the Palestinians of Israeli-occupied Lebanon. All those Palestinian families who had left their devastated camps at least once already are being driven by terror back to their camps or to the centre of Sidon and elsewhere.

Earlier this week, masked men, presumably belonging to the same Revolutionaries of the Cedars group which is in fact the pseudonym for the Falangist militiamen operating in the South of Lebanon, told 150 Palestinian squatter families to quit their homes in Sidon, threatening them with force if they did not leave within a few days, reported UNRWA's head in Lebanon last Friday. Last month, 69 families were forced to leave Sidon and go to other cities, and the threats and harassment against Palestinians in those areas are continuing on daily basis. Two of at least three Palestinians found murdered in the last few weeks had been told to leave homes they had bought and lived in for years, relief workers recently reported.

There is little doubt, even in the minds of Western diplomats and observers, that the use of terrorism against Palestinians in South Lebanon has been facilitated by the Israeli policy of arming competing militias, if not a terrorism that is carried out directly by the Israelis themselves. For, in addition to arming an anti-PLO group known as the Palestinian National Guard, which is modelled on the Israeli-armed Village Leagues in the West Bank, the Israelis have created several Shiite militias, armed the Falangists in the area and are reportedly now attempting to form a Sunni militia in Sidon. But that is not all: remember Maj. Sa'ad Haddad and his men, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the indiscriminate bombing of Beirut and the killing of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians last summer?

Just when the Israelis will ever have respect — just a little bit more respect — for human beings and human lives, we do not know. We do however know what the Israelis and their Falangist surrogates are doing to the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere, and also we can see that the world is not doing a thing about it. Tragic, isn't?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: New wave of pessimism

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other Jordanian officials outlined at a meeting with the visiting U.S. National War College delegation the nature of Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories. Such a meeting is significant as the close ties between the U.S. and Israel has been the backbone of the Israeli aggressive potential. Israeli military superiority can only be controlled by a determined American attempt to put Israel on the right path to peace.

The hope aroused by recent U.S. announcements on Lebanon have been overwhelmed by a new wave of pessimism resulting from U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib's statement in Cairo Saturday that speculation about an imminent agreement on Lebanon is premature. American credibility has again suffered a serious setback, and only a new American move over Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories can change the American image in the Arab World for the better.

The visiting American delegation has now been familiarised with the Jordanian view of the Middle East situation. Its members must have formed a different impression from that gleaned at a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir a few days ago. Shamir's call for American pressure on Jordan to enter the peace talks should have appeared groundless to the visiting delegation after their introduction to the real facts. They must also now know that it is Jordan that is genuinely concerned to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al Dustour: Shultz's strange logic

Several American attempts have been made to save the U.S. administration from the blame resulting from the deterioration in the chances for peace in the Middle East. The situation is returning to the conditions that prevailed before the late President Sadat's visit to Israel, which resulted in the separation of Egypt from its brother Arab nations.

Egypt has failed to achieve real peace with Israel, and the only kind of peace Israel is interested in has proved to be that which extracts a negotiated Arab surrender. The Arabs' only choice, as offered by Israel, is to accept a return to the days of colonial reign over their land and way of life. Another aspect of the Middle East situation is the ever-increasing volume of aid granted by the U.S. to Israel, which is the cornerstone of Israel's aggressive and expansionist drive.

Last week's contradictory U.S. announcements regarding an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon do not help the improvement of conditions in the region. Minister of State George Shultz call to the Arabs to suspend its recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a strange new development in American thinking. The justification for it is the PLO's disagreement with President Reagan's initiative.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. lacks objectivity

The special responsibility the U.S. has assumed towards peace in the Middle East necessitates an unbiased approach that enables it objectively and practically to remove obstacles standing in the path of peace. The unlimited support the U.S. has offered to Israel is definitely one of these obstacles, and the main reason for Israel's continued aggression against the Palestinian people.

U.S. Minister of State George Shultz's statement, in which he blamed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the failure of the American peace efforts for the region, does not indicate that the U.S. is serious in its claim to objectivity. Certainly the U.S.'s persistence in neglecting the Palestinian people's rights far from helps the situation.

DE FACTONOMICS

How to generate additional domestic revenues for the government

By T.A. Jaber

If I were asked about the number one problem in the Jordan economy I would say, without hesitation, that it is the government budget financing. This problem has been chronic since 1921. Every national development plan since 1962 has included in its overall objectives the increase of the government's reliance on domestic revenues to cover its recurring expenditures. This objective is also valid for the present five-year plan 1981-1985.

How did the Jordan government manage to face this problem? Indeed, the problem is still there and its seriousness becomes obvious when external budget support payments are delayed. However, the government has pursued two main policies towards solving this problem:

First, it has tried, with noticeable success, to generate more domestic revenues from

direct and indirect taxes, fees, licences and other sources. The result has been the tripling of domestic revenues from JD 107.6 million in 1976 to JD 359.2 million in 1982.

Second, the allocation of an increasing portion of budget support to capital expenditures required by the development projects. Thus, domestic revenues covered an increasing percentage of recurring expenditures; from 58 per cent in 1976 to 79 per cent in 1982. The present five-year plan aims at reaching a percentage of 100.4 in 1985.

The 1983 government budget includes an over ambitious target to enhance domestic revenues to meet 90 per cent of recurring expenditures. It seems even more over ambitious seen the light of the unrealistic budgeted growth of 18 per cent in domestic revenues while recurring expenditures are kept

within a 3.5 per cent increase in 1983 over 1982.

In sum, there are three major factors that require continuous efforts on the part of the Jordan government to generate more domestic revenues for the budget: The permanent objective of relying on domestic revenues and seeking external aid only for development projects; the unrealistic budget figures of 1983 in view of the economic slowdown which will reduce real direct and indirect tax revenues; and the delay in receiving Arab financial aid for political reasons of their own.

The government, then, has urgently to consider ways and means to generate additional domestic revenues. However, not every tool for that purpose is plausible in the context of the slowdown of private economic activities. An increase of the tax rate might lead to the opposite result and instead reduce

tax revenues. Thus, measures other than an increase of the tax burden should be sought at least during 1983 and early 1984.

In line with this analysis, I recommend three measures which will generate additional domestic revenues for the government.

First, increase the airport fee on departures (usually called departure tax) from two to five dinars. Such an increase would not contradict other objectives including tourism due to its marginal significance. However, it would bring over JD 7.5 million a year to the government budget in addition to its present yield of JD 4.5 million. The increase could coincide with the inauguration of Queen Alia Airport which cost more than JD 100 million. In other words, the higher fee is collected against better service.

Second, there are 120 thousand expatriate workers in Jordan whose work and residence are regulated by the ministries of labour and interior. The administration of work and residence permits carries a cost for the government. Other countries, including the oil-exporting Kuwait, have imposed fees for issuing work permits. If a fee of five dinars were collected for a work permit, a total revenue of JD 600 thousand could be raised annually. Such funds may be used to cover most of the recurring expenses of employment offices, the Occupational Health and Safety Institute and the Vocational Training Corporation.

Third, the government may wish to sell part of its portfolio in the mixed business enterprises either to the private sector or to the public corporations; namely, the Social

Security Corporation, the Pension Fund and the Postal Savings Fund. This would serve two main purposes; it would rationalise the government direct investment policy through the creation of a revolving fund to be used for new projects. It would also avail to the government additional funds in time of need. Government capital subscriptions would not then remain dormant but would serve as a useful policy tool for revenue generation and promotion of new projects. The government can now sell up to JD 20 million of its shares.

These sources of financing may appear to be of small significance when compared with the total volume of the government budget, but it should always be the practice in public finance to look for additional sources of revenues regardless of their initial levels.



Hamed

Dual control of missiles demanded

By Leslie Dowd
 Reuters

LONDON — Pressure is growing on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to press the United States for dual physical control over 160 cruise nuclear missiles due to be based in Britain.

Mrs. Thatcher has made clear she has no intention of doing so and does not even plan to raise the issue when she meets President Reagan next month at the Williamsburg economic summit. "We know of no plans or reason for the issue to come up," an aide said. "We are fully satisfied with the existing arrangements that provide for a joint decision on missile use."

The arrangements, going back 30 years, provide for joint political decisions on the use of American weapons in Britain. Analysts see little prospect of a policy change, but many Britons are not satisfied.

They range from the opposition labour and social democratic parties, which demand that a British finger share the missile button, to senior supporters of Mrs. Thatcher, who seek at least a clear restatement by the United States of the British role.

Britons would overwhelmingly prefer a form of so-called "dual key" control on the missiles, 96 of

which are to be based, starting in December, at Greenham common air base 80 kilometres west of London.

A recent opinion poll indicated 89 out of 100 people favour dual control, already applied to thousands of short-range battlefield nuclear weapons based in Europe where the host country controls the missile and the U.S. the warhead. Two months ago The Times reported that senior colleagues of Mrs. Thatcher were pressing her at least to elicit from President Reagan a clear and unambiguous statement about what the British role would be in an emergency.

A more immediate problem for Mrs. Thatcher is that some 50 of her own Conservative supporters, many seeing the issue in terms of British pride and sovereignty, are threatening to force a vote on the issue soon when Parliament debates disarmament.

They signed a recent draft motion drawn up by Conservative back-bencher Alan Clark calling for a "mechanism for sovereign physical control."

The question of who actually fires the weapons has been overshadowed by the mounting controversy in Europe over plans to station 572 Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in NATO countries as a counter to Soviet SS-20 missiles.

In handling the issue, Mrs. Thatcher must bear in mind the approaching British general election, expected this year, in which basing of cruise missiles may be a major issue.

Many of her advisers are anxious to deflate the growing peace movement, which turned out 125,000 protesters against nuclear weapons over the Easter holiday. Nor would NATO be pleased to see the control issue assume a momentum of its own.

While still not a problem for European political leaders, it could build up if basing of cruise missiles goes ahead without an agreement with the Soviet Union on limiting medium-range missiles. Italy is claiming the right of final control over the use of 112 cruise missiles due to be deployed at Comiso, Sicily. European diplomats have predicted that pressure for a "safety catch" on the missiles will mount as deployment draws near.

Britain could in fact have dual control by buying the missiles at a cost of around one billion sterling (\$1.5 billion). Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said recently, "The offer of dual key was available," he said. There was no case for the additional strain on the defence budget," currently running at 14 billion sterling (\$21 billion).

He additionally argued that to introduce a dual key system at this

stage would be costly, delay installation of the missiles and damage trust between Britain and the U.S.

The basis of the understanding, never fully published, that would involve Mrs. Thatcher in weapons decisions was laid by President Truman and Prime Minister Clement Attlee, who in 1951 resolved that American use of British bases in an emergency "would be a matter for joint decision."

Foreign Secretary Francis Pym on Wednesday made clear it is good enough for the Conservative government when he was asked in Parliament if British would demand a veto. "The question of a veto does not arise because the weapons could only be used on the basis of a joint decision," he said. According to journalists who have seen the big cruise missile shelters now being built at Greenham common, there is likely in practice to be some British physical involvement as British personnel will man the base alongside 2,200 Americans.

In times of tension the missiles, carried on lorries, would be moved from the base on to public roads and deployed to lessen their vulnerability. Also, although details have not been released for security reasons, British help may be prominent in making the missiles ready for firing.

Nicaragua's fragile revolution

By William Chislett

Four years after the left-wing Sandinistas overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of General Anastasio Somoza, the Central American Republic of Nicaragua is still struggling to climb out of the economic crater left by its civil war. Its chances of success are being made more difficult by the counter-revolutionary offensive which has been stepped up in the last two months.

More than 1,200 infiltrators, mainly former members of Gen. Somoza's National Guard, are now said to have penetrated into Nicaragua from their bases in neighbouring Honduras, which the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has chosen as the focal point for its covert action against the country.

The Nicaraguan regular army of about 20,000 men equipped with some Soviet tanks and a militia of some 50,000 are far superior to the counter-revolutionary forces in their present form. But the "contras" are managing to tie down a lot of the government's money, time and men, and are also sabotaging the country's valuable export crops of cotton and coffee.

The "contras" are also succeeding in making the government switch the emphasis of its policy away from economic reconstruction to defence, thus delaying economic recovery and giving Nicaraguans cause for discontent.

Nicaragua lay in ruins when the Sandinistas came to power in July 1979. An estimated 50,000 people had been killed in the fighting, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had fallen 30 per cent between 1977 and 1979, tens of millions of dollars of damage had been done to factories, roads and power facilities and the Sandinistas inherited an external debt of \$1.6 billion. All of this came on top of the 1972 earthquake, which flattened Managua.

Today the GDP of \$2.3 billion has still not recovered to its pre-war level. Last year it declined in real terms by 3.5 per cent, after 8.9 per cent growth in 1981, partly because of the floods and drought which struck Nicaragua in rapid succession.

Measured in constant 1958 Cordobas, GDP is the same now as it was 10 years ago, which means that, given the continued rise in the population — at present 2.9 million — average per capita income has plummeted.

Meanwhile export revenue from coffee, cotton and sugar totalled only \$408 million last year. This was \$228 million less than in 1977, considered the last year of "normal" economic activity. Imports, however, in 1982 were \$779 million, higher than in 1977, and all of them essential.

Debt servicing

The critical situation is further compounded by the high cost for Nicaragua of servicing its debt, which has ballooned to \$2.8 billion. Last year debt payments were \$190 million or 46 per cent of exports.

The estimated current account deficit of \$450 million was financed by external borrowings from official sources. With net foreign exchange reserves about \$120 million in the red, the few dollars available are being frugally rationed. On the well-hidden black market a dollar buys 60 Cordobas, compared with the official exchange rate of 10, and the parallel market rate of 28.

Unlike their ally President Fidel

Castro of Cuba, who repudiated debts owed to U.S. banks when he took power, the Sandinistas have remained within the Western banking orbit, although there are radical Marxists in the government who would dearly love to ditch the \$920 million of commercial bank debt which was rescheduled in 1981. Such a drastic step would exclude Nicaragua from all sources of Western financing, a senior government economist said, throwing the burdens of funding the country on its reluctant Soviet ally.

Last year Nicaragua received 40 per cent of its gross \$550 million overseas funding from Socialist bloc countries. The rest came from multilateral institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, or from Western countries. It received no new loans from its international bank creditors, however, and is being squeezed out of World Bank financing.

Sr. Mario Franco, a senior official with Nicaragua's International Fund for Reconstruction, said the country received no new money from the World Bank in 1982 because none of its projects, worth \$192 million over the next three years if approved, reached the decision-making stage because of political pressure from Washington.

Debt extension

Nicaragua will almost certainly have no option but to negotiate a further three-to-five-year extension on its private bank debt. It will be very stretched to pay the extra interest charges on this debt next year.

In 1984 Nicaragua is supposed to pay the interest which has been compounded and capitalised, since it is currently paying below the prevailing international interest rates. This will push the debt service bill to some \$400 million, over 80 per cent of exports, said Dr. Sergio Ramirez, a member of the country's three-man junta.

The government is also talking of introducing a foreign investment law in the summer to bring in capital. But even if this happens, which most observers consider improbable as the hardcore Sandinistas are against it, it is unlikely that foreign investors will be attracted to Nicaragua.

The Sandinistas' Marxist rhetoric and the confiscation of some land and factories has already caused the Nicaraguan private sector, which still controls 56 per cent of the economy, to put businesses on a care and maintenance basis.

As if foreseeing a trade boycott by the U.S., Nicaragua has succeeded in diversifying its imports. Purchases from the U.S. in 1982 were reduced to 19 per cent of total imports, compared to 26 per cent in 1981. New export markets have also been opened up.

Nicaragua's economic woes are dire in the short term, but the country does have substantial untapped agricultural and mineral potential.

It is understood that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is interested in helping Nicaragua. But the Sandinistas have not forgotten the last controversial IMF loan at the height of the civil war, which they suspect was used to buy arms to kill their supporters.

Observers say it would be politically disastrous to sign an IMF agreement now and have to submit to a stronger dose of recessionary medicine and sacrifice some of the social advances.

— Financial Times news features

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Non-recognition of PLO 'a diplomatic anamoly'



Dr. Issam Sartawi

Dr. Issam Sartawi, the PLO's roving envoy who wrote this commentary shortly before the recent Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council.

PARIS — The failure by the United States to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation is a troubling blot on the American diplomatic record. The moral and political imperatives that characterise Palestinian-American relations argue urgently for a serious effort to correct this anomaly. For its part, the PLO has done what it can to remove the obstacles to better relations — demonstrating the strong desire of many in the organisation for a just and honourable peace.

The Palestinian people's claim to nationhood and their right to choose their own representatives should be accepted by the United States as an inalienable right — a right that cannot be denied on grounds of political expediency and shifting definitions of national interest. Nor should recognition of

this claim be subordinated to the will of a third party. It is a decision that bears directly on America's long-range interests.

The most serious obstacle to improved relations was created by then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1975 when he stated that the United States would not recognise the PLO until it recognised Israel's right to exist and accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Since then, successive U.S. administrations have ratified the Kissinger commitment, making it the backbone of America's Middle East policy.

The government of Israel has greatly benefited from Mr. Kissinger's commitment — even though the Israeli government itself sought contact with the PLO when it found such ties convenient. Early this year, for example, the Begin government sent an Israeli delegate, Arie Eliaz, to negotiate with the PLO about exchanging prisoners. Thus, ironically, Israel permitted itself what it adamantly denied to the United States.

Yet neither the Kissinger edict nor Israeli pressure has prevented Palestinian-American contacts. On several occasions American authorities accepted direct PLO help, as for example in 1976 when the PLO protected and pro-

visioned the U.S. embassy in Beirut and helped evacuate American citizens from Lebanon. This so impressed Mr. Kissinger that he sent a personal letter of thanks to Yasser Arafat.

Some years later, during the Iranian hostage crisis, the PLO was instrumental in arranging the release of female and black American prisoners. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance acknowledged this help with another message of thanks to Mr. Arafat. Clearly, Palestinian-American contacts can be of immense value to both sides.

More recently, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Nicholas A. Vellios, stressed that the Reagan administration views the Kissinger commitment not as an ultimatum but as an invitation for the PLO to establish relations with the United States. A careful review of the Palestinian record demonstrates that the PLO has formally accepted this invitation by removing the last remaining obstacles in the way of formal relations with the United States.

The Palestine National Council took the first important step in April 1981 when it unanimously endorsed the Leonid Brezhnev initiative calling for "ensuring the

security and sovereignty of all the states in the region including those of Israel." Clearly this amounts to an explicit recognition of Israel.

The PLO has also formally accepted all the principles of Resolution 242 except the paragraph — which even the United States has abandoned — that describes the Palestinian problem as a refugee question.

Finally, in January the PLO went beyond both Mr. Kissinger's conditions and the Vellios invitation when Mr. Arafat received an Israeli delegation headed by a retired general, Mattityahu Peled. The joint communique from the meeting, which was simultaneously broadcast by the official Palestinian news agency, Wafa, and the Israeli media, announced to the world that agreement had been reached on joint Palestinian-Israeli action to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

No one imagines that the road to peace will be easy, but despite the divisions among us, we in the PLO have amply demonstrated a commitment to a just peace. It is now up to the United States to reciprocate.

— New York Times.

Israeli records reveal horror of Deir Yassin

Eric Silver, Jerusalem correspondent of The Guardian, reports on recent revelations, from documentary evidence, of what really happened in the 1948 massacre.

THE Arabs of Deir Yassin believed they were safe. Their village was not at war with the Jews, and the head man had reached an understanding with the neighbouring Jewish suburb of Givat Shaul on the western tip of Jerusalem.

"There was an agreement that there would be no problems between them," explains Muhammad Sammour, a retired school inspector, sitting in his spacious stone house near the West Bank town of Ramallah. "If any of their young people attacked Deir Yassin, the Jews would catch them and stop them. If anyone from Deir Yassin attacked Givat Shaul, the Arabs would stop him. There were no problems between Jews and Arabs there at that time."

On Friday, April 9, 1948, the villagers and the world learned how wrong they were. Before dawn, 35 years ago, 120 fighters from the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang stormed Deir Yassin from two sides. A makeshift loudspeaker van, which was supposed to call on the inhabitants to surrender and thus avoid harm, stuck in a ditch, its message unheard.

The Arabs put up what resistance they could — more, as it happened, than their assailants had bargained for — but by the end of the day, Deir Yassin was deserted and in ruins. Scores of men, women, and children were slaughtered. Others were driven in triumph by their captors through

the streets of Jewish Jerusalem and released in the Old City. A handful escaped through the hills to Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. Muhammad Sammour, then a 26-year-old teacher, spending the weekend at home with his family, was one of them.

Alarm

By accident, or design, Jewish or Arab, Deir Yassin sounded an alarm, speeding if not provoking the flight of 700,000 Arabs from the part of Palestine that became Israel five weeks later. The name has never lost its resonance, yet the facts have remained hard to come by. There were few, if any, disinterested witnesses. By his own published account, Jacques de Reynier, of the International Red Cross, arrived on the scene two days after the massacre began.

The official Jewish leadership condemned the slaughter, while covering up its own complicity. The Haganah commander in Jerusalem, David Shaltiel, had reluctantly approved the raid (though not the massacre) — and even sent a mortar platoon to help the attacking force out of a tight corner.

The Irgun and the Stern Gang accused the Zionist establishment of dragging their names in the mud, and insisted that Deir Yassin was a conventional military operation in which some civilians got hurt, as did about 40 of their men, anyone who suggested otherwise was accused of bias or worse.

This version, which became Israeli doctrine after the former Irgun leader, Menachem Begin, became Prime Minister in 1977,

has recently been challenged from an unexpected source, the ranks of the perpetrators.

Yisrael Segal, a reporter on the weekly magazine Koteret Rashit, unearthed extracts from testimony discreetly filed in the archives at Mr. Begin's party headquarters in Tel Aviv. They show

ration, wrote: "When it comes to prisoners, women, old people, and children, there were differences of opinion, but the majority was for liquidation of all the men in the village and of any other force that opposed us, whether it be old people, women, or children." The wish for revenge, he added, was

Extracts from testimony discreetly filed in the archives at Mr. Begin's party headquarters in Tel Aviv... show that a majority of the commanders favoured a massacre to teach the Arabs a lesson, and that the fighters did not conceal the atrocities of Deir Yassin from their own people afterwards.

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that a majority of the commanders favoured a massacre to teach the Arabs a lesson, and that the fighters did not conceal the atrocities of Deir Yassin from their own people afterwards.

Ben-Zion Cohen, who was wounded while commanding the operation,

strong after "the enemy smote us" at Gush Etzion and Atarot, two Jewish settlements near Jerusalem that "were lost until 1967."

The Irgun deputy commander, Yehuda Lapidot, claimed that the idea of a massacre came from the Stern Gang, who contributed

about a third of the attacking force. "The clear aim," he wrote, "was to break the Arab morale." Lapidot insisted, however, that Irgun headquarters vetoed the idea. This was confirmed to me by Meir Pa'il, a left-wing politician and military historian who was a Haganah intelligence officer in Jerusalem in 1948, and was present as an observer throughout the operation.

"Destroyed" prisoners

Another Irgun officer, Yehoshua Gorodentchik, lifted a curtain on the way his men fought. "After suffering many casualties," he testified in the Tel Aviv archive, "we thought of retreating. We had prisoners, and before the retreat we decided to destroy them. We destroyed the wounded, too because, anyhow, we could not give them first aid. We also found Arab men who had dressed up as women and therefore decided to shoot the women who did not make their way to the assembly point for prisoners."

The story of Arab men disguised as women is independently confirmed by Yair Tsaban, a left-wing Mapam M.P. who as a 17-year-old schoolboy was drafted to bury the dead after the Irgun and the Stern Gang had left the field. But he put a different gloss on it.

"What we saw," he told me, "were women, young children, and old men. What shocked us was at least two or three cases of old men dressed in women's clothes. I remember entering the living room of a certain house. In the far corner was a small woman with her back towards the door, sitting

there dead. When we reached the body, we saw an old man with a beard. My conclusion was that what happened in the village so terrorised these old men that they knew being old men would not save them."

Classified report

Meir Pa'il's report of Haganah headquarters is still classified, but what he remembers "a disorganised massacre" after most of the Arab resistance had ended. "It was a massacre in hot blood," he said. "It was not planned. It was an outburst from below with no one to control it. Groups of men went from house to house looting and shooting. You could hear the cries of Arab women, Arab elders, Arab kids. I tried to hold them back, but I could not find their commanders."

One question still unanswered is how many Arabs died at Deir Yassin. The generally-accepted figure is 240-250, but the Irgun has sometimes put it as low as 120. I asked Muhammad Sammour, the teacher who fled to Ein Karem. To my surprise he said 93 were killed in the village and 23 prisoners were executed in Givat Shaul, a total of 116 out of a population he estimated at 800-1,000.

How had he come to that tally? "About three days after the massacre," he replied, "representatives of each of the five clans in Deir Yassin met at the Muslim offices in Jerusalem and made a list of the people who had not been found. We went through the names. Nothing has happened since 1948 to make me think this figure was wrong."

— Guardian Weekly

Randa Habbib's

A cultural feast

The EEC Spring Festival which is just coming to an end was the best cultural event Amman has seen for years.

At long last we citizens of Amman were entitled to see and hear famous names in jazz, folk dance, and chamber music.

Another nice surprise was the Royal Theatre with all its comfort. No comparison with the horrible seats at the Palace of Culture.

All who have participated in this festival should be heartily thanked. The idea was excellent, and was the first time a festival of this kind had been organised outside Europe by the EEC.

Another good thing is that the funds raised by this festival will finance the Jordanian Olympic group, though I have heard that the funds were much less than originally expected. After all, the Royal Theatre can only seat 300 people, while the performers were numerous and their stay in Amman had to be paid for.

But for a first experience we can say that it was a good one — let's hope it won't be the last.

More good news on the cultural scene: the Jerash festival, which will begin this summer, promises to be excellent.

I've heard that the well known Lebanese singer Feyrouz will be the guest of honour. This already makes us dream of wonderful evenings surrounded by the Roman columns of Jerash.

Opinion--Al Ra'i

Aqaba vs. Eilat?

By Fahd Al Fanek

The competition between the Jordanian resort on the Red Sea, Aqaba, and the Israeli Eilat, a few miles to the west, is evidently fierce. Both try to attract the European tourist,

and have almost the same natural characteristics. The only difference is what each of the two Red Sea resorts can offer the tourist, apart from what mother nature has bestowed on them. A warm welcome, minimum of rules and regulations and efficiency of service are definitely among these merits.

Israel is obviously concerned for the cultural and political aspect of the competition. The selection by European tourists of either of the two resorts for their vacation almost invariably predetermines their impressions and understanding of one or other side's political views on issues predominant in the region, besides the question of hard currency to be gained by either side.

Aware of this, the Israeli ministry of tourism arranged an international tourist festival in Eilat in March. It was attended by over 100 prominent travel agents from Israel and the USA, as well as leading travel and tourism journalists from all over the world.

Eilat has 24 tourist hotel, with a capacity of 2,500 beds. Israeli ministry of tourism sch-

emes provide for the establishment of 17 new hotels that would offer tourists 6,000 additional beds before the end of 1985.

On the other side, Aqaba now has no more than 12 tourist hotels, with a capacity of 1,600 beds. Moreover, calls are made every now and then to halt investment in the Aqaba tourism sector as things have reached an uneconomic level.

World tourist observers used to expect a prosperous future for Aqaba, which they assumed would become the most attractive resort on the Red Sea. The touristic build-up came to a halt, and hotels are now witnessing a substantial decrease in business. Aqaba is turning into a freight port.

If Aqaba loses the battle with Eilat, it will not be because Eilat is more beautiful, or offers better hospitality or lower prices. It also will have nothing to do with political stability and security, as these are better on the Jordanian side.

The possible success of Eilat at the expense of Aqaba will simply be a result of our under-valuation of tourism, not only as an economic activity, but also as a political, social and cultural factor which strengthens our position as a state.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:05 Children's Programme
18:20 Sports
18:35 Mapped Show
19:20 Programmes Review
19:30 Armed Forces Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:40 Arabic Varieties
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Taxi — Vienna Wais
21:10 Smiley's People
22:00 News in English
22:15 Classical Hour — Rock Meets Classic

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW

07:10 Morning Show
08:00 Morning Show
08:15 News Summary
08:30 News Summary
08:45 News Summary
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

THEATRE

* The Northern Black Light Theatre performs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m.

LECTURE

* Public Opinion And American Politics (in Arabic) by Dr. Monte Palmer at the American Centre at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Mukhammad H. Al-Rifai and Abdul Nasser Odeh at the Alia Art Gallery.

RECITAL

* Organ recital by Ulrich Feige at the Theodor Scheller School at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610297

American Centre 41520

British Council 36147-8

French Cultural Centre 37090

Goethe Institute 42003

Soviet Cultural Centre 24049

Turkish Cultural Centre 39777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 667181

Y.W.C.A. 41795

Anglian Municipal Library 36111

University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Wallace Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf'a (Clived Hill). Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92305-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
08:00 Kuwait (RJ)
08:55 Aqaba (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Doha (RJ)
09:50 Damascus (RJ)
09:55 Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
10:45 Moscow (SU)
11:00 Kuwait (KAC)
11:15 Baghdad (IA)
11:30 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
11:45 Bangkok (RJ)
11:55 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Tunis, Athens (TU)
12:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)
12:45 Athens (GF)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)
13:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
13:30 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
13:45 Beirut (MEA)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:15 Baghdad (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

04:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:15 Damascus (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
07:50 Cairo (EA)
08:05 Beirut (IA)
08:20 Damascus, Geneva (SA)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Tripoli, Madrid (RJ)
11:30 Athens (GF)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Moscow (SU)
13:15 Kuwait (KAC)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:45 Baghdad (RJ)
14:00 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Kuwait (TU)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Jds.

Belgian franc 73.8
Dutch guilder 130.2
Egyptian pound 322.7
French franc 48.3
Iraqi dinar 524.3
Italian lire (for 100) 246.8
Japanese yen (for 100) 150.5
Kuwaiti dinar 1226.6
Lebanese lira 85.6
Omani rial 1031.7
Saudi riyal 98.7
Swedish crown 47.8
Swiss franc 175.4
Syrian lira 61.3
U.A.E. dirham 97.4
U.S. sterling pound 558.7
U.S. dollar 357.5
W. German mark 146.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with scattered showers and thunder storms. Winds will be northerly to moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and seas rough.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 6/12
Aqaba 15/24
Deserts 6/11
Jordan Valley 12/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193.7511
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 229040-3
Police rescue 192.2111, 37777
Police headquarters 36141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 26381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 83181-32
Khaldia Maternity, J. Amman 44291-4
Akhla Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Madhat, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 66171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 66131-7
University Hospital 54584-5
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667138
Al-Munaster Hospital 66727-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Sa'id Moh'd Sa'id (Al Wuhdat)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Almond (Green) 300/250
Almond (Syrian) 300/150
Apple (American) 530/450
Apple (Double Red) 280/200
Apple (Golden) 280/200
Apple (Turkish) 220/180
Apple (French) 510/400
Apple (Starkent) 280/200
Banana 270/220
Banana (Mekammar) 230/200
Beans 550/400
Beans (broad) 130/100
Beets 130/100
Cabbage 130/100
Cauliflower (white) 180/150
Cauliflower (green) 300/200
Coconut 300/250
Cucumber (large) 200/160
Cucumber (small) 200/150
Eggplant (large) 250/200
Garlic 300/250
Garlic (green) 200/150
Grapefruit 130/100

Mandarin 300/250
Marrow (large) 180/150
Marrow (small) 300/250
Melon 140/100
Onion (dry) 800/400
Onion (green) 200/150
Oranges 170/140
Oranges (Mandarin) 320/250
Oranges (shamouti) 250/180
Oranges (local) 190/150
Pears 280/200
Pears (African) 100/80
Pears (Australian) 1000/800
Peaches 850/750
Pepper (Sweet) 800/600
Pepper (Hot Green) 1000/800
Plum 850/750
Potatoes 210/170
Radish 150/120
Sage 230/200
Spinach 180/150
Thyme (green) 300/250
Tomatoes 280/200
Turnip 120/80

SPORTS

World Champions Italy virtually out of European Championship

BUCHAREST (R) — World Cup holders Italy faced almost certain elimination from the European Soccer Championship after they were beaten 1-0 by Romania here Saturday in a bad-tempered match marked by a string of vicious fouls.

A scorching 24 minute goal by Boloni confirmed Romania as favourites to qualify from Group Five for next year's finals in France and spelled doom for Italy.

Czechoslovakia swamped Cyprus 6-0 in Prague earlier in the day to make Italy's cause look even more hopeless. The two East European sides should now decide the outcome of the group between them in their two clashes in May and November.

Romania lead the group with seven points from four games, two more than Czechoslovakia and four more than Sweden and Italy.

The Italians, without a win since last July's 3-1 World Cup final victory over West Germany in Spain, never looked likely to steal the match from a powerful Romanian side which played with zest and self-confidence.

As Italian frustration grew, so did the number of petty fouls. Traditionally big favourites with the Latin Romanian fans, the Italians ended by being booed for late tackles and high kickings.

Referee Jean Vautrot of France booked four players — Giancarlo Antognoni and Fulvio Collovati of Italy and Camataru and Augustin of Romania. He also warned Ita-

lians Marco Tardelli and Claudio Gentile.

Although Italy needed to win, manager Enzo Bearzot pushed only Paolo Rossi up in attack in the early stages, apparently gambling on a breakaway goal.

But Rossi, hero of Italy's World Cup triumph, was blotted out by the big forlornescu who shepherded him and helped his side take a tight grip on the game.

Balaci and Boloni made several powerful runs at the Italian defence and almost produced early goals for Camataru and Geolga.

The decisive goal came after a foul by Collovati on Camataru. Stefanescu took the free kick and passed the ball deep to Boloni who blasted a 20-metre shot past the stunned zoff in the Italian goal.

Canada, West Germany move to world hockey semifinals

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Canada and West Germany won through to Wednesday's Women's World Hockey Cup semifinals here Sunday in a nailbiting climax to their six-nation qualifying pool.

They left England, who were blitzed 4-2 by the second-seeded West Germans, complaining bitterly about an umpiring decision which bundled them into third place and out of the 12-nation tournament on goal difference.

The unfancied Canadians, who beat the Soviet Union 4-0, meet Australia while the West Germans play the top-seeded Dutch in a repeat of the 1981 World Cup final which the Germans won.

England will feel aggrieved they are not lining up against the Dutch after a controversial umpiring decision early in the second half ruled out a goal that would have made the score 2-2.

While the English players stood in disbelief, a West German goal hit was picked up by forward Patricia-Ott, who scored a scorching goal. Two minutes later Martina Koch made it 4-1, smashing home a penalty corner.

The third-seeded English, who could have lost by one goal and still qualified, wanted to lodge a protest over the decision but were told the French umpire's decision was final.

"We are shattered. That was the turning point and it cost us a place in the semifinals," team manager Barbara Holland said.

The Germans, who rocked Eng-

land with two goals late in the first half, were happy to pack their defence after scoring two more and England's constant attacking produced only one goal, a Kim Gordon penalty stroke seven minutes before the end.

The West Germans, who had started with a shock defeat by underdogs Argentina and whose recent international record has been poor, could test the Dutch.

"We have got used to the hot, humid conditions and are playing

much better now," team manager Wolfgang Strödter said.

But the 10th-seeded Canadians also sounded out a warning to the Australians with an emphatic win over the Soviet Union. They beat Argentina and West Germany in the qualifying group and needed only a draw to go through.

But they eagerly over-ran the Russians and their most consistent performer, centre forward Darlene Stoyka, brought her goal tally to four with two superb goals.

Waitz equals world best in London race

LONDON (R) — Grete Waitz of Norway equalled the women's world best time of two hours 25 minutes 29 seconds in the London marathon Sunday.

Waitz matched New Zealander Alison Roe's time set in the New York event two years ago after Britain's Mike Gratton strode to overall victory in 2:09:44.

Waitz overcame a knee injury and cramp in the 42.195 km test and looked on schedule to improve Roe's mark. But in a thrilling finish she had to settle for an identical time.

Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Gratton gave up his job as a physical education teacher two weeks ago to concentrate full-time on running. And his decision paid off because he achieved his main aim of earning a place in Britain's team for the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki in August.

Gratton caught early pace-setters Emiel Puttemans of Belgium and three Ethiopians after 24.14 km and broke clear with competitor Gerry Heine.

He made his decisive burst over the Tower of London cobbles after 37 km and opened up a 60-metre gap which Heine could not close.

Heine finished second in 2:10:12 and Henrik Jorgensen of Denmark was third.

Gratton, third last year, said: "I was a bit worried beforehand because I was running well five weeks ago and thought I might be over the top."

"Gerry almost broke me at 22 miles (35.40 km) but then when we went over the cobbles he seemed to tense up and I made my move."

Rain produced near-perfect conditions for the 18,000 starters.

Lendl, Vilas clash in WCT final

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, the top two seeds, battled their way to the title match of the \$250,000 World Championship Tennis (WCT) spring finals here Saturday.

Lendl needed just 95 minutes in the semi-finals to slug his way past fourth-seeded American Brian Teacher, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, while Vilas was forced into a three-hour duel with sixth seed Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, winning 7-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Lendl and Vilas, regarded as the

two of the best clay court players in the world, will meet for the first time on this surface since April 11, 1982, when Lendl blew a two-set lead and allowed Vilas to win a marathon five-setter in a Grand Prix final in Monte Carlo.

Lendl, who was casual and joked with officials and spectators during his quarter-final win over American Mark Dickson on Friday, was much more serious against Teacher.

"I was getting a little upset with myself for missing some shots and I think I got some bad calls," Lendl said. "My concentration

was wandering a little."

Lendl was able to compensate for his mistakes by rifling home nine aces, including the final two points of the match, and said his serve was "the best it's been in a long time."

Teacher, who prefers hard courts, said: "I don't play on clay very often at all. I'm not used to hitting 30 balls in a row."

"It wasn't a matter of me not being patient. He's just a better player. I was a little outclassed."

Vilas took advantage of Smid's constant attacks, scoring with 35 clean passing shots.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Located in Jabal-Amman, near the 5th Circle. Approximately two-hundred square metres in area: consisting of a salon, dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen and laundry room. Equipped with a fully automatic washing machine, two bathrooms and three large balconies overlooking the largest and nicest garden in Amman. There is a continuous and private water supply, central heating and a telephone.

For further information, please contact tel: 42736.

FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished or unfurnished apartment consists of two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room and a salon. Located at Shmeisani, opposite Regency Palace Hotel.

Tel: 668879

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English speaking lady for work at

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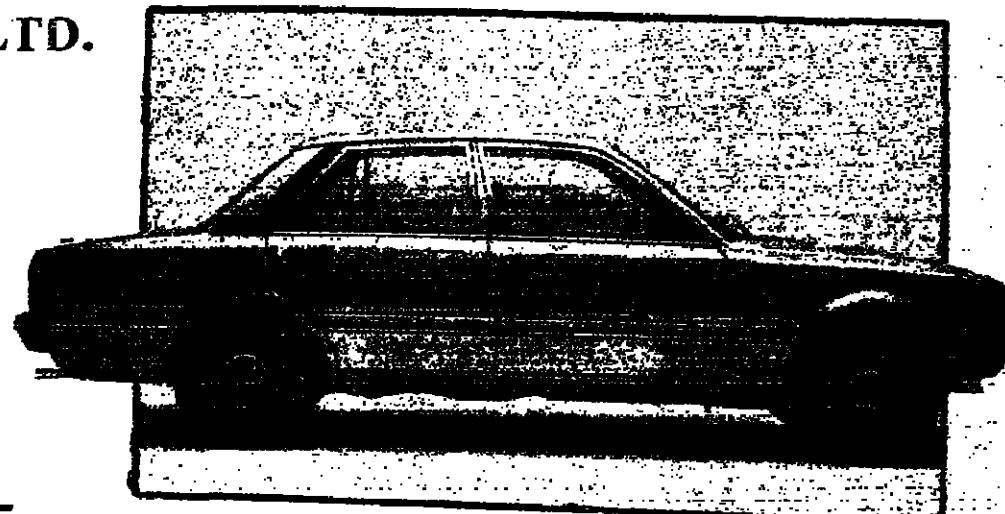
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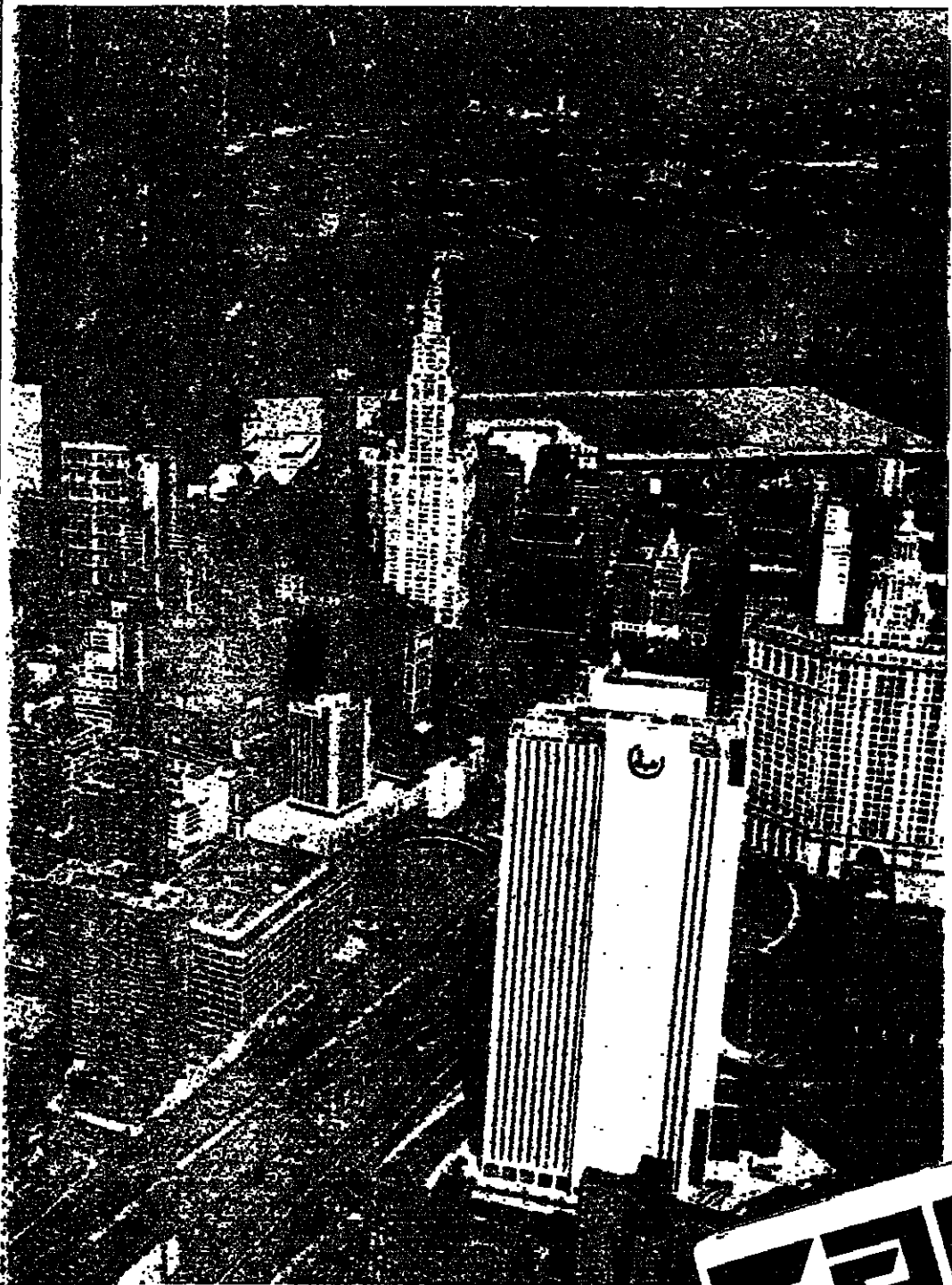
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مركز الأخبار

ECONOMY

Budget could boost Canadian economy

OTTAWA (R) — The Canadian economy, tentatively emerging from the depths of recession, could receive \$4 billion boost when Finance Minister Marc Lalonde presents his budget on Tuesday, financial analysts said.

Job creation programmes and sales tax cuts are expected to be major elements in the government's economic package, they said.

Unlike other leading Western countries, Canada still has an inflation rate of seven per cent while one in eight Canadians is out of work, the highest figure since the great depression of the 1930s.

The ruling Liberals, 20 points behind the opposition Con-

servatives in opinion polls, insist the economy is on the upturn, pointing to renewed business confidence and a rise in gross domestic product.

Mr. Lalonde, hinting that job stimulation would be a top priority, told parliament last week that his budget, the first since he took over the crucial portfolio last September, would reflect the government's concern with unemployment.

With Canadians saving 14 per cent of their salaries — twice as much as Americans do — Lalonde is keen to boost consumer spending, possibly by cutting sales

taxes, analysts said.

Mr. Lalonde, architect of a controversial energy programme aimed at reducing foreign, or mainly American, domination of Canadian oil companies, has paid more attention to the private sector since switching from the energy to the finance ministry.

Like U.S. policy makers, he has been pressing Canada's semi-independent central bank to soften its tight monetary stance and relieve pressure on cash-starved businesses.

The budget is politically crucial, offering the Liberals a last chance to revive their sagging fortunes before an election is called, maybe next year, commentators said.

Advisers warn against protectionist measures

BRUSSELS (R) — Senior economic policy advisers from European Community states have warned their governments against setting up fresh trade barriers to nurture new industries and to cut soaring unemployment.

In a stark appraisal of the dangers of rising protectionism, the community's Economic Policy Committee (EPC) said a freer trade approach by ten-nation trading bloc was vital for any long-term recovery from recession.

The committee's report, written by senior treasury officials from member governments, will be presented to a meeting of finance ministers in Luxembourg Monday.

It will then form part of the community's preparations for the

seven-nation Western economic summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, late next month.

Diplomats said its recommendations would be warmly received by West Germany and Britain but France was likely to quarrel with its implied criticism of many of the community's own recent trade practices.

The unpublished report, obtained by Reuters, dismisses the main arguments for protectionism heard in European capitals over the past few years.

In an attack on the community's trade policies towards countries like Japan, the report flatly rejects the idea of selective trade barriers to help Europe adjust to the economic upheaval provoked by rapid technological advance.

But the policy committee argues that protectionism would simply delay the process of adjustment and worsen the problems of European industries.

Similarly, measures aimed at nurturing key industries would isolate them from essential competition, while attempts to cut unemployment through trade barriers were largely ineffective.

The report acknowledges that in exceptional cases the community might need to respond to protectionist measures taken by other nations with trade barriers of their own.

Even then such actions are likely to raise costs, strengthen monopolies, or encourage overproduction, it says.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APR. 18, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you would be wise to stop, look and listen to what an experienced person says about a mutual problem. Make changes that could give you added income.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An outside affair may pose a problem but you can easily overcome it. Avoid one who is a troublemaker. Express happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have to change your attitude to gain your aims at this time. A higher-up can give the assistance you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Persevere and attend to important obligations that you have neglected. Arrive on time for an important duty.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may find friends moving or making changes, so be prepared for such. Take better care of your health.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study your duties well and know where to make the right changes. Excellent results will follow. Be more cooperative.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A new activity comes up and you should go along with it. Put aside thoughts of pleasure for the time being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study the situation at home carefully and make sure you change your tactics for better results. Use care in motion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Discussions with close ties in the morning can make regular routines more efficient. Be careful in motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your aims in life and make those changes that are necessary in order to get ahead. Sidestep an opponent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you feel disappointed in yourself, you can offset this by constructive thinking. Study new channels of expression.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Organizing the practical side of life intelligently will see you accomplishing more. Use your own good judgment.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have to make changes if you want your personal life to have more meaning. Contact a friend who has drifted away.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she must be taught the right philosophy and then this can become a most successful life. Direct the education along artistic lines for best results. Don't neglect religious training early in life. Stress sports.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

U.K. may ban lead in petrol

LONDON (R) — The British government is to ban lead in petrol because of concern over its health effects, press reports said Sunday.

The reports, which officials did not confirm or deny, appeared in several newspapers on the eve of the publication of a major report on lead.

Monday the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution will publish a report which, according to widespread leaks, will recommend that all lead should be banned from petrol.

The newspaper reports said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was expected to respond swiftly and positively to its recommendations.

Environmentals say a ban on lead in petrol would be a major victory for anti-pollution campaigners in Britain, where the controversy has been fiercer than in other European countries.

Lead is a neurotoxin — a brain poison — and there is concern that lead in the atmosphere affects the intelligence of young children.

The United States, Japan and Australia have already promoted a major switch to lead-free petrol.

But European cars still run on leaded petrol, and any move by

Britain's Conservative government to ban it would have repercussions for other members of the Common Market.

Lead has traditionally been added to petrol because it is the cheapest way to give the fuel a higher octane, or power, rating.

Industry opposes a ban on lead, which could cost Britain more than £400 million (\$600 million) a year.

The government is already committed to reducing the lead content of petrol from 0.4 grammes to 0.15 grammes per litre by 1985.

S. Arabia will meet goals

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil said the kingdom's financial position remained solid despite reduced oil revenues in the present glut, and development goals would be met.

Interviewed by Reuters at the weekend, Mr. Abal Khalil said he saw no difficulties in meeting the current 1980-85 development plan, including establishment of major refining and gas-based petrochemical industries.

He dismissed a suggestion that Saudi Arabia might be short of

cash, saying: "The country is in a very solid financial position. This is very well known everywhere. That we are a prudent country financially."

Mr. Abal Khalil was interviewed following the introduction of a deficit budget, in which his ministry envisaged tapping reserves for about 35 billion Saudi riyals (\$10 billion) to cover projected spending of 260 billion riyals (\$75 billion).

Bankers estimate these reserves at up to \$150 billion, but Mr. Abal

Khalil would not give a figure.

Mr. Abal Khalil said that with oil exports depressed and the Saudi price lowered this year from \$34 to \$29 a barrel, the kingdom was likely to go into deficit on its current account.

He said total production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might rise from August to 19 million barrels per day (b/d) from what the industry estimates is currently around 16 million b/d, with a corresponding increase in Saudi sales.

Egyptian economy: The fight to stop the rot

CAIRO — Anyone looking for an illustration of the way Egypt's industrial policy has been progressing in recent years need look little further than the Egyptian Iron and Steel Company at Helwan, south of Cairo.

A crumbling monument to Nasser's state industry programme of the early 1960s, it employs no fewer than 25,000 people.

Though designed to produce more than 1.5 million tonnes of steel annually from blastfurnaces and mills built mainly with Soviet help, present output is about half that.

The rolling mill director says he only has enough work for 7,000-10,000 people.

Helwan's problem is not lack of demand — the country imports about 700,000 tonnes of steel a year. Its problem is bottlenecks in the steelmaking process which, since the Russians were kicked

out, are being investigated by consultants from the British Steel Corporation.

The steelworkers are poorly paid, partly because there are too many of them. Because the pay is bad, good managers are hard to find and keep. But even with the best managers, Helwan's problems are unlikely to be solved until Egypt gets to grips with its industrial dilemma: How to streamline and decentralise its huge state sector without undermining Nasser's vision of a socialist, full employment society.

Egypt is an example of a country where a huge swing in the political compass has created almost insuperable difficulties for industrial planners.

Nasser's nationalisation programme was followed in 1974 by Sadat's "open door" policy and subsequent encouragement of the private sector.

Today, Egypt can be said to have got the worst of both worlds.

Whereas Britain, for example, has achieved over the past 35 years a relatively stable definition of the public sector's limits, Egypt has arrived at the 1980s with something that looks more like a dual economy than a mixed economy.

Legislative efforts are under way to "restructure" the nationalised industries by means of a bill designed to put the state sector on a more commercial footing.

The state sector, accounting for about three-quarters of industrial output, has suffered all the disadvantages of central planning while losing the advantages of a closed economy.

An entrenched bureaucracy which owes its position to nationalisation is unwilling to devolve decisions to company board level. Employment has taken precedence over industrial efficiency, and overmanning has led to low wages.

At the same time, low wages have caused a flight of skilled labour to more lucrative work in the private sector or abroad to the Gulf. Prices are controlled, investment has been inadequate and antiquated machinery has meant

low output and poor quality.

The growth of the private sector — mainly small and medium-sized firms — has only served to highlight the commercial vulnerability of the public sector.

For that reason, the government is being careful not to cast state industry in the role of Ugly Sister. Direct competition from the private sector is definitely not part of the new programme.

Western diplomats therefore expect the private sector to grow more slowly than official statements suggest. They detect a heavy ambiguity in the open door policy which, they say, is discouraging local investment as well as joint ventures with foreign partners.

The bill presented to the national assembly proposes a substantial transfer of authority from the ministries to the boards of public companies. Managements would be able to sack ineffective staff, reduce their workforces, pay bonuses and set wage rates. They might also be able to raise money on the markets and manage their own accounts.

Workers' representatives would lose their right to half the seats on

the board — a measure which, translated into action, could strip the trade unions of much of their influence. They have little compensating industrial strength.

The government is meanwhile devoting the major part of its annual public sector budget to rehabilitating run-down industries such as sugar refining, paper and pulp, and finishing off half-completed projects. Only 10 million Egyptian pounds (\$1.4 million) is being spent this year on new projects, compared with 180 million Egyptian pounds on existing plants.

The bill is designed to "equalise management in the public and private sectors," according to the former minister for industry, Dr. Fouad Abu Zaghla.

Dr. Zaghla, dismissed in the wake of the recent corruption trials but not personally discredited, was for many years manager of the Helwan steelworks. As minister he became controller of 117 of Egypt's 378 public sector companies.

"Ownership is one thing; management should be another," he said.

Yet the reforms will not be allowed to cut too deep.

Dr. Zaghla said companies could not be given complete freedom, for example, on pricing without upsetting the whole economic system. Nor could the public sector tolerate full-blooded competition. "We haven't enough products. We have enough then we can let people compete in the market."

Again, managers' hiring and firing freedoms will be tempered not only by trade union opposition but also by Egypt's need to find jobs for the 400,000 people joining the labour market each year.

Egyptian industrialists and Western diplomats alike doubt that the public sector bill will have much effect, for all its good intentions and the confidence many express in Dr. Zaghla himself.

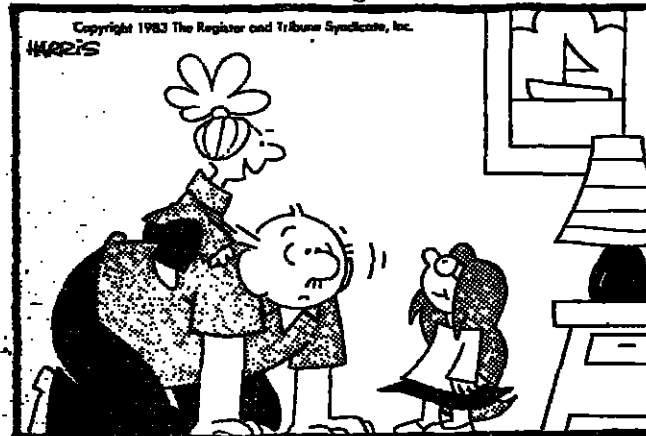
Mr. Mohammad Badawi, a consultant in textiles — one of Egypt's principal industries — argues that legislating for state industry efficiency is no substitute for the competitive stimulus that would be provided, for example, by slashing the import tariffs protecting the garment business.

At Helwan steelworks, the view is much the same.

— Financial Times news features

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Uncle Stanley LOVES to play horsey! He says at work the boss is ALWAYS on his back."

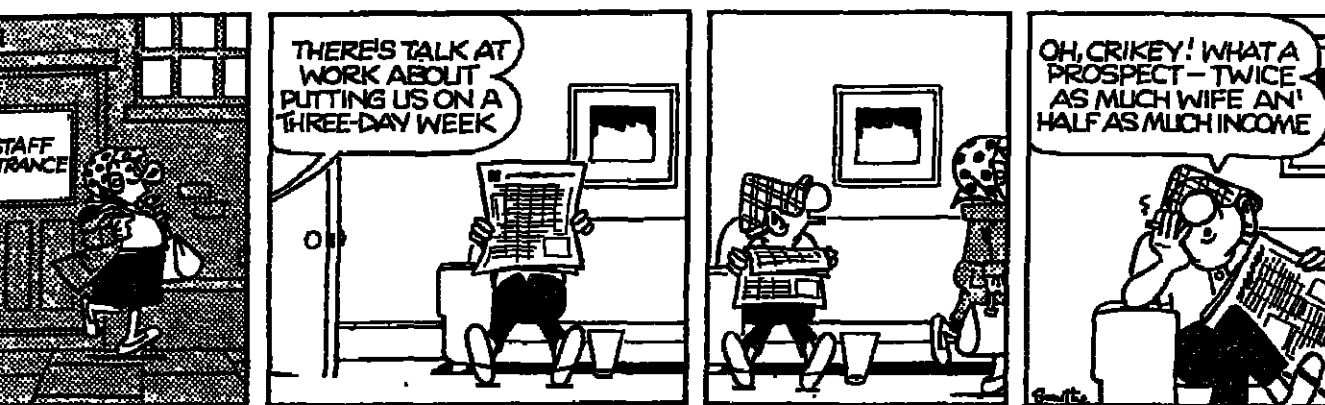
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

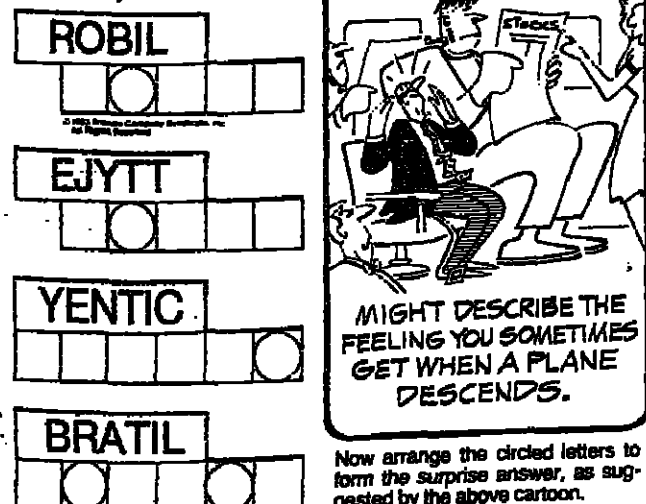


Andy Capp



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

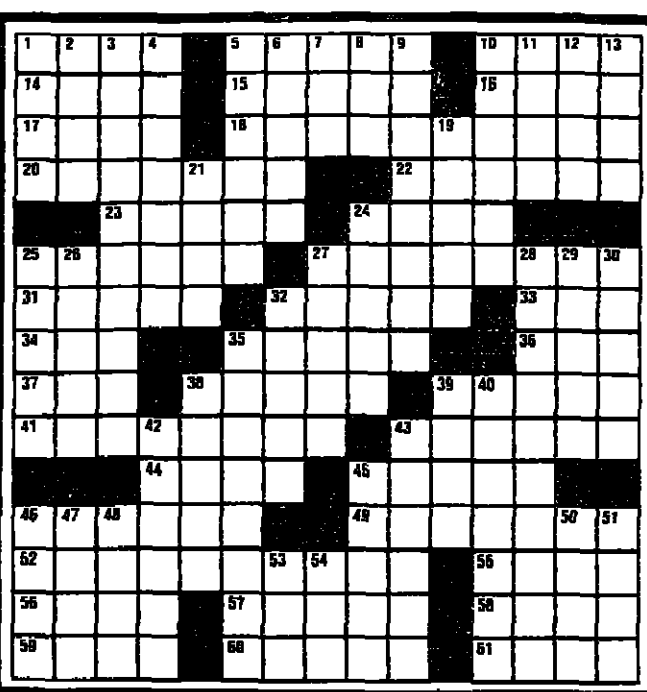
Print answer here: "O O O O - O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREEK ODIUM INJECT FORGET
Answer: What the mouse said when his tail got caught in the trap - THAT'S THE END OF ME!

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Benshoof

ACROSS	27 Offered	44 Auspicious	13 Theater
1 By any	31 "— of	45 Bulgarian	seating
chance	robin's	46 Welts on	19 Gang and
5 Magnani	32 Site of	47 The skin	show
et al.	Tulleries	48 Securely	21 Fold up
10 Wind	Gardens	49 — Haute	24 — Haute
14 Station: Fr.	33 Actor	fastened	25 Founder
15 Support	34 Wallach	52 Virile	of Mogul
for birds	35 Exclude	53 Guam harbor	Empire
16 Musical	36 Dress or	54 Speedy	26 Related on
group	polo	55 horse	mother's
17 Descended	37 Dapper —	56 Italian	side
18 Misleading	city	57 Flashy	27 Famous
clue	38 Season	58 Greenish-	Japanese
20 Sound wave	in Dijon	blue	family
unit	39 Strand	59 Flashy	28 Fish
22 Ballet	40 Predilection	fruit	29 Make happy
position	41 Densely	60 Reduce	30 Ate
23 Bind	populated	gradually	32 Call
24 Mature	land	61 Gaelic	33 Leaves the
25 Directive	43 Put on a	tan	country
	tan		Gambler's
			decoy
			38 Porous rock
			40 Quicken
			42 Portrayal
			of Tarzan
			43 Unite
			45 Focus
			46 Prepare a
			package
			47 Man on a
			pedestal
			48 Dutch
			cheese
			50 Periods
			of time
			51 Valley
			53 Harem room
			54 Party fare



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WORLD

China shells Vietnam as border clashes rise

PEKING (R) — Chinese artillery smashed Vietnamese ground fortifications Sunday as border clashes intensified, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

Chinese troops returned the fire of Vietnamese frontier guards and the shelling, which began Monday morning, was still going on, NCNA said.

The artillery barrage had left the Vietnamese strongpoints "in a mess," NCNA said in a report from a forward command post in an unspecified part of Yunnan province.

Saturday NCNA reported that Chinese troops had fired back at Vietnamese soldiers in neighbouring Guangxi province and that Vietnamese earth defence works had been destroyed. Neither report gave any indication of casualties.

Sunday's report said Chinese troops were forced to return fire following frequent Vietnamese border attacks in the last month in which an unspecified number of local peasants working in the fields had been killed.

NCNA said "Vietnamese special agents sneaked into Chinese border areas to set fire to the mountains," and accused the enemy of setting fire to more than 600 hectares of jungle, bamboo groves and rubber plantations.

Enemy agents had also destroyed houses of local inhabitants as well as telecommunication lines, it added.

Diplomatic sources said the Chinese attacks were clearly aimed at distracting the Vietnamese who were apparently planning further raids on northern and central sections of the Thai-Kampuchean border following

fiery barrages further south.

The diplomats said China was highlighting its own counter-attacks for the first time since the two communist neighbours fought a bitter but inconclusive border war in 1979.

Many clashes have occurred since the war, most of them minor, but until now China has stressed Vietnamese attacks and has given little prominence to its own troops returning fire.

The diplomats said China's strong response to the reported Vietnamese attacks was intended as a warning to Hanoi not to provoke large-scale attacks which could develop into all-out war.

Vietnam Sunday demanded that China must cease its artillery attacks along their border and warned that it held Peking fully responsible for any action that might follow.

Athens to try Turkish hijacker

ATHENS (R) — A Turk who hijacked a Turkish airliner to Athens last Friday was charged Sunday with violating air navigation laws, endangering the security of a plane and illegal possession of arms and explosives, a spokesman for the judiciary said.

Legal sources said the 707 on an internal flight from Istanbul to the port of Izmir, forcing the pilot at knife-point to fly to Athens. He was overpowered hours later and none of the 114 passengers and crew was hurt.

Kalkan, who will plead behind closed doors Monday, told the Athens public prosecutor he opposed the military regime in Turkey and his aim was to go to Australia.

"My sole aim was to escape from Turkey and not to harm any one. I do not think I will live until the day of my trial. I do not want food and drink," he said.

The prosecutor told him the authorities would see that he took food and drink.

Several underground Solidarity activists detained in crackdown

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities have announced the capture of several senior Solidarity underground figures after an opposition appeal for demonstrations on May Day, the first call for protests this year.

The arrests also followed the announcement of a secret meeting between the top underground body, the Provisional Coordinating Commission (TKK) and Lech Walesa, chairman of the banned union.

Police questioned Mr. Walesa, his wife and his driver last week. They all said they refused to answer questions about the reported meeting, the first between the two major forces in the union since Mr. Walesa was freed from internment five months ago.

State television said Saturday night that Jerzy Jastrzebski, 45, a member of Solidarity's policy-making national commission, was one of four people arrested when police raided an apartment in central Warsaw and seized an illegal radio transmitter.

Mr. Jastrzebski had been wanted since the military takeover in December, 1981.

State television said he was the coordinator of the clandestine Radio Solidarity. The radio, as if

in defiance, made a brief broadcast on Friday, the day after the arrest.

In the western city of Gorzow police detained Zbigniew Belz, a member of the union's watchdog auditing commission, and several other underground activists on Friday. He was reported to have been planning May Day demonstrations.

Ten supporters of the illegal nationalist group KPN, many of whose members were also in Solidarity, were detained in the industrial city of Plock and illegal printing houses were closed down in six major cities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Sidharta' rescue story unconfirmed

BONN (R) — West German news reports that a Soviet ship had rescued four survivors from a crippled German-owned yacht, missing for the past week in the South China Sea. A foreign ministry spokesman in Bonn said the Soviet embassy in Manila had told West Germany it could not confirm the reports. "We have been in touch with Soviet officials and unfortunately, very unfortunately, the reports prove to be untrue. The search continues but there seems to be little hope," the spokesman said.

Reagan's 'decline' seemingly ends

NEW YORK (R) — Public approval of President Reagan's handling of the economy had increased slightly, halting a two-year decline in his rating, according to an opinion poll published Saturday night. The New York Times-CBS News poll, taken among 1,489 adults last weekend, showed 40 per cent approved of Reagan's economic policies while 49 per cent disapproved.

'U.S.-European ties will erode'

WASHINGTON (R) — A private study released predicted an erosion of U.S. relations with its European allies in the next decade and warned that the U.S. army will be forced to return to peacetime conscription in the 1990s. It said strong West European disapproval in U.S. alliance leadership and strong European domestic pressures for neutralist foreign policies, among other things, "will combine to erode by the 1990s the essential spirit if not the form of the NATO alliance."

Iranian women face tougher times

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian women who flout the Islamic clothing code in public places from now on will face arrest, trial within 24 hours, and a month to a year in prison, according to an official order issued here. The penalties are the same as those imposed for the sale or purchase of pornographic films and photographs, and recordings of so-called "vulgar music," Tehran Radio said, quoting the order.

Naples police end gangland wedding

NAPLES, Italy (R) — A wedding reception for the nephew of an underworld boss ended abruptly in an exclusive Naples restaurant when police burst in and arrested several guests. Police said they seized guns and ammunition from the guests, one of whom had hidden his flick-knife in a vase of flowers. Raffaele Lubrano, 24, comforted his weeping bride Rosa, 21, as officers hauled off several men with criminal records as sidekicks of his uncle, gang chief Lorenzo Nuvoletta.

Ethiopia welcomes relief programme

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia has welcomed the European parliament's decision to draw up a relief programme for the country's chronic drought but said it was unrealistic to channel the aid through non-government agencies. Shimeles Adugna, head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Programme (RRP), told Reuters that voluntary agencies lacked means of transport to reach drought victims in the country's northern Wollo, Tigray and Gondar provinces.

N. Indian wheat harvest threatened

NEW DELHI (R) — Heavy rain in North India is threatening prospects of a bumper wheat harvest while South India continues to suffer from severe drought, trade sources said Saturday. Farmers in the North were praying for the freak rains of the past few days to stop, but at the country's southern tip six Hindu priests vowed to stand in a lake for ten days to beg the heavens for rain, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Thais go to polls today

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand votes Monday in a general election pitting the military and its supporters against leading political parties and the poll is widely expected to give neither side a clear-cut victory.

The result may be another army-backed coalition.

The snap election was called after Parliament blocked attempts, supported by the army, to change the constitution.

Days or even weeks of the political manoeuvring that traditionally follows Thai elections could ensue before a new government emerges, political analysts said.

The poll, originally scheduled for June, is being contested by 1,880 candidates for the 324-seat House of Representatives. Fourteen parties are in contention.

Moscow hints at partial pullout from Kampuchea

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS has indicated that Moscow supports a proposed partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea next month.

TASS said the ambassadors of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea briefed Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Saturday on a conference of the foreign ministers of these countries.

"Proposals worked out at the afore-mentioned conference ... merit the serious consideration of all those really striving to achieve full peace and stability in the region," it said.

Radio Hanoi reported after the meeting that the three allies announced a partial Vietnamese troop withdrawal for next month.

A communique, quoted by Radio Hanoi and monitored in Bangkok, said the troops would be withdrawn because of the stable

situation in Kampuchea.

TASS said the Soviet Union backed Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean efforts to create a climate of trust and cooperation between countries in South East Asia.

The presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea has been cited by Peking as one of the main obstacles to the normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations.

Indochina is likely to be a key issue when Soviet and Chinese negotiators hold their next round of consultations aimed at ending two decades of hostility between the two countries.

The Communist Party daily Pravda, in an apparent reference to fighting on the Thai-Kampuchean border, said Sunday that Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops were carrying out measures there to render harmless reactionary groups.

'Rohini' put into orbit

NEW DELHI (R) — India Sunday put a satellite into orbit from a rocket launching pad on an island in the Bay of Bengal, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

The 41.5 kilogramme satellite named Rohini was carried into space by a 17-tonne four-stage Indian-made rocket launched from Sriharikota Island, off the East Coast of India.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi watched the launch on closed-circuit television in the main control room.

Moscow urges W. Europe to prevent deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership called upon West Europeans Sunday to prevent the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles on their territory.

A list of political slogans published in the Soviet press to mark forthcoming May Day celebrations said: "Peoples of Europe. Prevent the deployment of new U.S. nuclear-missile weaponry in Western Europe."

Another of the 56 slogans, which appeared on the front page of all major Moscow dailies, called

Moscow urges W. Europe to prevent deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles

for increased efforts to avert nuclear war. "Demand the banning of nuclear, neutron and chemical weapons," it said.

Glenn urges Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Sen. John Glenn, an active but still unofficial 1984 Democratic presidential candidate, has urged President Reagan to negotiate an agreement with the Soviet Union for the reduction of both nuclear and conventional weapons.

The Ohio senator, in a nat-

ionally broadcast radio address, said Mr. Reagan had failed to make any progress at the Geneva arms reduction talks. Sen. Glenn was given the radio time to respond to Mr. Reagan's weekly broadcast, which this week was on domestic tax issues.

"The entire arms control process is on the brink of collapse," Sen. Glenn said.

The senator added that he recognised the need for a strong defence, but said progress could be made on arms reductions without jeopardising national security.

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The senator added that he recognised the need for a strong defence, but said progress could be made on arms reductions without jeopardising national security.

Salvador air force chief smug about crisis outcome

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Air force commander Juan Rafael Bustillo, involved in a showdown with El Salvador's defence minister, said Saturday that a proposed solution to the crisis favoured him.

According to military and political sources, Col. Bustillo had said he would refuse to accept orders from the armed forces high command if Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia did not resign by Friday.

But high-level military and gov-

ernment negotiations have been going on to avert the crisis and Col. Bustillo said results of the talks would be announced on Monday.

"I believe the announcement will favour my position," Col. Bustillo told reporters.

According to Salvadorean military and political sources, Gen. Garcia agreed to resign in mid-April in negotiations to defuse a military crisis last January which threatened the unity of the Salvadorean army, but then did not.

Romanian 'shuttles' all over Europe

VIENNA (R) — A Romanian seeking political asylum who was expelled from Britain and sent back to Romania was in the same Australian refugee camp Saturday where he spent several months in 1980.

Stancu Papusoiu, 29, is in the Traiskirchen refugee camp and is making his second application for political asylum there in three years.

A year ago Papusoiu smuggled himself to Britain aboard a cargo ship and gave himself up to London police. He was jailed and put on a plane to Romania last month, despite efforts to allow him to stay. His expulsion raised a political outcry.

Soviet Union claims CIA uses diplomatic cover

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has published what it said was further evidence of espionage conducted by U.S. intelligence under diplomatic cover in Moscow.

The government daily Izvestia devoted half its back page to the story of Yevgeni Kapustin, a Russian whom it said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruited through an American embassy official code-named "Vanya."

Izvestia said the two men made contact through standard spy techniques such as "dead letter boxes." In one such incident Kapustin collected instructions from a glove left in a telephone box, it said.

Kapustin was arrested by KGB counter-intelligence in September 1981 but no details of a trial have ever emerged.

The last Russian before then to have been tried for espionage was sentenced to death, though the sentence was later commuted to 15 years in a labour camp.

In the present climate of spying accusations and diplomatic exp-

Moscow attacks yoga, karate, pacifism, rock music

MOSCOW (R) — Yoga, karate, rock music and some forms of pacifism have come under fire in the latest Soviet attack on foreign influence in culture.

A commentary in the newspaper Sovetskaya Kultura Saturday reinforced the Kremlin's return to stricter control in the arts with fierce criticism of almost everything from abroad.

Western rock music and Soviet rock bands who copy it are a long-standing target of criticism.

But Saturday's article also warned against imports from the Far East, referring to recent letters to the press praising karate as a sport and yoga for health.

"The ideological basis of karate is Zen-Buddhism, and yoga is not just a physical exercise system but teaches the complete suppression of physical activity. These are ideologies infinitely distant and foreign to us," the commentary said.

Products of the Western pop music industry were dismissed as

damaging to social intercourse, while foreign films were said to glorify immorality, cruelty and force.

Sovetskaya Kultura gave a clear warning to any artist who might feel free to interpret Soviet government statements on world peace as indicating an unrestricted field of activity.

"Damage is done to the educational material and artistic productions which do not contribute

to the strengthening of revolutionary vigilance and class consciousness," it said.

Addition to foreign culture in general was a symptom of youth's tendency to turn to consumer attitudes, ignoring the achievements of socialist realism, the paper said.

Socialist realism is the formal, stylised art that thrived under the repressive regime of Josef Stalin, depicting the manual worker in painting, music and literature as a grandiose hero.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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BAD BREAK — HANDLE WITH CARE!

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J105
♥ A64
♦ 85
♣ AKQ108

WEST EAST
♠ AKQ96 ♠ 742
♥ 9 ♥ J1085
♦ K107 ♦ J9642
♣ J762 ♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ 83
♥ KQ32
♦ AQ3
♣ 943

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

declarer ruffing the third round. One declarer now cashed the king and queen of trumps to learn of the bad break. He then started on clubs.

East ruffed the second club and shifted to the nine of diamonds. Declarer found that he was forced to take the diamond finesse (if he rose with the ace, he either could not draw the last trump or else had to give up on establishing the clubs). West won the king of diamonds and gave his partner another club ruff for down two.

At the other table, declarer adopted a far sounder line. He cashed the ace of clubs, returned to his hand with the king of hearts and led a club to the king. If East now ruffs and returns a diamond, declarer can rise with the ace, draw trumps with the ace and queen and then run clubs with the help of a finesse for the jack to make his contract.

So East discarded a diamond, but that was no better. Declarer crossed back to hand with the queen of hearts and took the club finesse. He simply ran clubs until East decided to ruff. On the diamond return he rose with the ace, drew the last trump by crossing to the ace of trumps, and he was in dummy to cash whatever high clubs remained. Making four-odd.

Ten days ago, three weeks after arriving in Romania, Papusoiu was discovered on a train in western Austria without a ticket and destitute after travelling from Romania to Austria via Hungary.

An interior ministry spokesman said it was not clear how Papusoiu had left Romania, but Western diplomats familiar with Eastern Europe said it could be assumed he had left Romania legally with an exit permit.

Saturday he was taken to the isolation wing of Traiskirchen where he will stay for a week before being allowed into the open section of the camp to await his application for asylum.

Afghan refugees removed from crowded North West Frontier

By Brian Williams
Reuter

MIANWALI, Pakistan — Pakistan is now sending Afghan refugees deep into its interior because the North West Frontier regions can no longer cope with the relentless influx.

More than three years after the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan, the continuing arrival of refugees has forced Pakistan to risk upsetting its own people by establishing camps about 160 kilometres from the border.

The decision places refugees in the fertile Punjab province, away from the North West Frontier and Baluchistan, where customs are similar to those in Afghanistan.

Pakistan estimates that it now has nearly three million Afghans inside its borders, the world's largest refugee population. It expects about 25,000 more to arrive every

month for the foreseeable future.

Earlier this month, neighbouring Iran also acted to ease its refugee load by announcing that 1.5 million Afghans would need identity cards to gain access to public services like education and welfare facilities.

Scarce resources

Pakistan's chief commissioner for Afghan refugees, Brig. Said Azhar, said that in the border areas the Afghans had strained scarce resources of water, wood and grazing land, as well as burdening electricity and transport.

He said the 2.3 million refugees in the North West Frontier region now comprised one sixth of its population and its animal population had risen by nearly three million sheep and goats.

The sensitive task of settling the refugees in the Punjab in the face

of some local opposition has fallen on 35-year-old former Maj. Zia Ul Haq, district commissioner for the Mianwali region, about 250 kilometres southwest of Islamabad.

His administrative powers cover an area where about 800,000 people live, some 150,000 of them in the sub-district where new refugees are being settled.

So far about 25,000 refugees have moved into a camp in the sub-district. But by next year the number is expected to be nearly 200,000 outnumbering the locals.

'Some resentment'

"There is some resentment. But it is a chance we have to take. We are ready to face the music but they are guests," Mr. Zia Ul Haq said.

He said some local residents had written to Pakistan's military

ruler, President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, about the decision to move the refugees to their district.

They were worried about grazing land and rented facilities like new roads being built for refugees when they had wanted such improvements for years.

"This is a part of the Punjab which has been crying and yelling for development for centuries," Mr. Zia Ul Haq said. "They have felt neglected."

On roads, local authorities can argue that what is good for the refugees is also good for the locals. But there are other problems. Mr. Zia Ul Haq said there would be one doctor for every 10,000 refugees, while the ratio outside the refugee camp was one doctor to 35,000.

The authorities have taken great care to minimise conflicts between refugees and locals in the Punjab. A four-month survey of possible camp sites was und-

ertaken before settling on the Mianwali district, where many residents originally came from Afghanistan, decades ago.

Regular meetings have been arranged between refugee representatives and leaders of the local community to head off any disputes.

Mr. Zia Ul Haq said he planned to turn the Punjab camp into a model settlement. "Unlike the other areas, we have had time to prepare for the arrival of the refugees," he said.

The camp will have the first bank at a refugee settlement, and the Afghans are encouraged to build their own brick huts with material supplied by the Pakistan government instead of living in tents.

"Some refugees have already said we are making them so comfortable that they will not want to go back home," Mr. Zia Ul Haq said.

